



---

# ***Daily Report***

# **Latin America**

FBIS-LAT-92-038  
Wednesday  
26 February 1992

# Daily Report

## Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-038

### CONTENTS

26 February 1992

**NOTICE TO READERS:** An \* indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

#### FRONT PAGE

#### INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

'Text' of Canela Presidential Summit Declaration [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 21 Feb] .... 2

#### CARIBBEAN

##### Cuba

|                                                                       |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Havana SUVP Giron 92 Exercise Ends [Havana TV] .....                  | 6 |
| Mantanzas Province Exceeds Electric Consumption [Havana Radio] .....  | 6 |
| Magnetizers To Save 6,000 Tons of Oil in 1992 [Havana Radio] .....    | 6 |
| Time Change Expected To Reduce Energy Use [Havana Radio] .....        | 6 |
| Castro Diaz-Balart on Nuclear Development [Havana Radio] .....        | 6 |
| Castro Meets With German Socialist Party Leader [Havana Radio] .....  | 6 |
| Joint Commission Session Begins in Tehran [Havana Radio] .....        | 7 |
| Cooperation Agreement Signed With Ecuador [Havana Radio] .....        | 7 |
| U.S. Drug Policy 'Violation' of Sovereignty [Havana Radio] .....      | 7 |
| Radio Notes 'Injustice' in U.S. Justice System [Havana Radio] .....   | 7 |
| Commentary Views Cheney's Visit to Latin America [Havana Radio] ..... | 8 |

##### Haiti

|                                                                               |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Cedras Reportedly Agrees To Signing of Agreement [Port-au-Prince Radio] ..... | 9  |
| Aristide Disagrees With Pardon [Port-au-Prince Radio] .....                   | 9  |
| Accord Signed [Bonaire Radio] .....                                           | 9  |
| Political Leaders React to Agreement [Port-au-Prince Radio] .....             | 9  |
| Further on Demonstration at Legislative Palace [Port-au-Prince Radio] .....   | 9  |
| Army Issues Warning [Port-au-Prince Radio] .....                              | 10 |

#### MEXICO

|                                                              |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Joint Antidrug Agreement Reached With Belize [NOTIMEX] ..... | 11 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|

#### CENTRAL AMERICA

##### Honduras

|                                                                        |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Rebel Officers To Be Dishonorably Discharged [EL HERALDO 22 Feb] ..... | 12 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|

##### Nicaragua

|                                                                             |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Chamorro's Reconciliation Day Speech Reported [Managua Radio] .....         | 12 |
| Government-Yatama Talks, Agreement Noted [BARRICADA 24 Feb] .....           | 14 |
| Vice President Comments on UNO Coalition [Managua Radio] .....              | 15 |
| Borge Reiterates Sandinist Principles, Goals [EL NUEVO DIARIO 24 Feb] ..... | 16 |

##### Panama

|                                                                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Government Urged To Organize for Canal Takeover [EL PANAMA AMERICA 24 Feb] .....  | 17 |
| Nationalist Position on U.S. Bases Supported [LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 24 Feb] ..... | 18 |
| Attorney General's 'Arrogant Attitude' Criticized [EL SIGLO 24 Feb] .....         | 18 |

## SOUTH AMERICA

### Argentina

|                                                                            |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Menem Evaluates European Tour With 'Enthusiasm' [CLARIN 24 Feb] .....      | 20 |
| UK's Major Invites Menem for 1993 Visit [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 25 Feb] ..... | 20 |

### Brazil

|                                                                                    |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Negotiations With Paris Club Reported Deadlocked [Rio de Janeiro TV] .....         | 20 |
| Marques Opposes Price Manipulation by Cartels [Brasilia Radio] .....               | 21 |
| 'Crisis' Created by Foreign Exchange Surplus [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 24 Feb] .....  | 21 |
| Reserves Top \$10 Billion [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 23 Feb] .....                     | 21 |
| Implications of Nuclear Energy Bill Assessed [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 23 Feb] .....  | 22 |
| Document Urges Creation of New Defense Ministry [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 19 Feb] ... | 23 |
| Antidrug Aspect of Cheney Visit Discussed [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 21 Feb] .....     | 23 |
| 'Solidarity' Group Says Cuban Executions 'Fair' [FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 18 Feb] .....  | 24 |
| * Speculation on Collor's Health Detailed [FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 8 Feb] .....         | 24 |
| * Efforts To Form, Enlarge Congressional Blocs [GAZETA MERCANTIL 13 Feb] .....     | 25 |
| * Fiuza Comments on Recent Cabinet Reform [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 26 Jan] .....     | 27 |
| * Mercosur To Standardize Technical Regulations [GAZETA MERCANTIL 13 Feb] .....    | 28 |

### Chile

|                                                                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Torture Cases Included in UN Commission Talks [EL MERCURIO 12 Feb] .....             | 29 |
| Delegation Abstains on UN Resolutions on Israel [EL MERCURIO 15 Feb] .....           | 29 |
| Argentina, Brazil Ask Support for Treaty Change [LA TERCERA DE LA HORA 14 Feb] ..... | 30 |

### Colombia

|                                                                                  |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Gaviria News Conference on Drug Trafficking [Santa Fe de Bogota Radio] .....     | 30 |
| Government-Guerrilla Talks To Be Held in Mexico [Santa Fe de Bogota TV] .....    | 31 |
| Government, Power Workers Reach Agreement [Santa Fe de Bogota TV] .....          | 31 |
| Presidential Adviser Echeverri on Social Policy [Santa Fe de Bogota Radio] ..... | 31 |
| Ecopetrol Reports Oil Income Dropped in 1991 [EL NUEVO SIGLO 15 Feb] .....       | 33 |

### Paraguay

|                                                                        |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Rodriguez Calls Brazil Summit 'Positive' [HOY 22 Feb] .....            | 33 |
| Internal Debt to Central Bank \$321 Million [ULTIMA HORA 15 Feb] ..... | 34 |

### Peru

|                                                         |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Fujimori Discusses Government Program [La Paz TV] ..... | 34 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----|

### Venezuela

|                                                                            |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Opposition Parties Not To Participate in Cabinet [Caracas TV] .....        | 40 |
| Perez' Speech Cancellation Fuels 'Uncertainty' [Mexico City NOTIMEX] ..... | 40 |
| President Perez Swears in New Cabinet Members [Caracas TV] .....           | 41 |
| New Cabinet Listed [AFP] .....                                             | 42 |
| Perez Declares Journalist Strike 'Illegal' [Hamburg DPA] .....             | 42 |
| Perez Comments Further [Caracas TV] .....                                  | 43 |
| Rosas Announces Foreign Exchange Reserves [Caracas TV] .....               | 43 |

### **Venezuela**

Venezuela TV reports that six new cabinet ministers were sworn in on 25 February by President Carlos Andres Perez. According to COPEI Secretary General Eduardo Fernandez, "There is no plan for COPEI to join the government." Movement Toward Socialism leader Pompeyo Marquez stated that his party has also "decided against" joining the cabinet, but they do realize that "the intention is to broaden the government's foundation."

### **Haiti**

Bonaire radio reports that Haitian parliamentarians and deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide have signed an agreement that "is expected to eventually return him to power." The agreement was delayed over a disagreement "about keeping the coup leader, General Raoul Cedras, in his post." According to the report, Aristide has agreed to "keep him on."

### **Inter-American Affairs**

The Brazilian daily O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO carries the text of the declaration issued at the conclusion of the Southern Cone presidential summit in Brazil. The declaration includes a 10-point document intended to "guide" delegations attending the UN Conference on Environment and Development. The document stresses cooperation between developed and developing countries to "achieve an environmentally healthy planet and a world that is socially and economically just."

**'Text' of Canela Presidential Summit Declaration**

*PY2402215392 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Feb 92 City Supplement p 4*

["Text" of declaration issued at the conclusion of the Southern Cone presidential summit in Canela, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil on 21 February]

[Text] The presidents of the Southern Cone countries met in Canela, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil on 20 and 21 February 1992 to discuss and adopt issues for the UN Conference on Environment and Development [UNCED].

This declaration is issued by the presidents of Southern Cone countries prior to the upcoming UNCED.

1. The environmental crisis is a threat to the planet. The balance of the ecosystem in which we live is essential for the entire human race. To safeguard the environment and achieve rational conservation of natural resources, all governments of the world must adopt the firm commitment to jointly safeguard conditions for life on our planet for future generations.

2. We fully assume this common responsibility, aware that the effort to control it must be as diverse and varied as the causes of the present environmental problems, using the financial and technological resources available. The efforts to be made by developing countries demand new, additional, and continuous financial resources under particularly favorable terms. Only technology that is safe for the environment should be transferred under favorable terms and according to the capacity of the developed and developing countries.

3. Development must be the main objective of actions to reverse the degradation of the environment. These actions must combat the symptoms as well as the causes of the problems. To fully achieve this objective, multi-lateral environment programs must properly define responsibilities, respect national sovereignties in accordance with international agreements, and effectively achieve an interrelation that will equitably safeguard the benefits of the parties involved.

4. Because we are convinced of the need for joint actions, we consider it useless to assign responsibility for the damage caused to the environment without learning an exemplary lesson from the experiences. It is absolutely imperative to immediately agree on joint formulas that will slow the adoption of renewed predatory measures, banning forever selfish and indifferent attitudes, and ensuring that all proposed programs include proper studies on the impact on the environment.

5. The international community understands that protection of the environment and natural resources should not undermine socioeconomic development. Quite the contrary, they must be complementary because a certain production level must be maintained while protecting natural resources. A new international cooperation system is needed so we can achieve an environmentally

healthy planet and a world that is socially and economically just. It is imperative to achieve qualitative growth and sustained development to meet the needs of current generations without jeopardizing the needs of future generations. The efforts of the international community must not seek recriminations but adopt means to achieve sustained development.

6. We reaffirm the importance of education and the formation of a public conscience and responsibility concerning all environmental problems. The participation of the community, especially society's key sectors—youth, nongovernmental organizations, and the media—must be encouraged to increase the knowledge and practice of environmentally healthy standards.

7. Strengthening the scientific and technological infrastructure of developing countries and the cooperation of the developed countries to spread and transfer technologies that are more environmentally healthy, modern, and adequate are an essential part of the joint task to defend and protect the environment.

8. The agreements through which we will achieve the proposed goals need to be drafted, developed, and collated into an international environmental law. Aside from the laws approved by each nation, it will be necessary to improve laws that regulate the integrity of the resources that belong to more than one nation and the related actions involving these resources. Among other provisions, these international laws must include provisions for establishing environmental monitoring and permanent cooperation systems in the wake of climatic changes, deterioration of the ozone layer, natural disasters, and other environmental risks. The Rio-92 conference must decide on the drafting of a convention to formulate an international environmental law [convencao codificadora do Direito internacional ambiental], to establish principles, to define nations' duties, to define individual and corporate responsibilities, to define international responsibility within this context, and to establish a means to effectively punish illegal environmental actions.

9. We believe the market economy has mechanisms which, when efficiently used, encourage rational environmental attitudes and discourage attitudes that scientific research describes as noxious. Market forces alone are not enough to establish sustained development. Commercial transactions must absorb the costs of protecting the environment incurred during production without transferring such costs to future generations. We reaffirm our repudiation of subsidy systems that minimize and distort market conditions and tend to condone predatory practices against natural resources.

10. The Rio-92 conference is the highest priority: it represents a historic, unique opportunity to begin a new stage of international cooperation that will be translated into an increased transfer of financial and technological resources. Along with the other Latin American and Caribbean countries which we joined in March 1991 in

Tlalatelolco, we will seek to establish in Rio de Janeiro a solid basis for an international agreement among all nations, without exceptions, that will lead to sustained development and joint actions to defend the environment.

11. We thus express the will of our governments to maintain permanent contact on matters related to the environment and development before and after the Rio Conference through appropriate channels and to jointly organize and carry out our activities. We will thus analyze the technical and economic feasibility of establishing, with the support of the appropriate international organizations, a regional network to observe the stratospheric ozone layer and to accurately detect any changes.

12. The Canela and the Manaus presidential summits that were sponsored by the Brazilian Government clearly show the political will of South American countries to find common ground to ensure the success of the Rio-92 conference.

The following document on the positions will guide our delegations during the negotiations to be held prior to the Rio-92 conference.

#### **I. Protection of the Atmosphere**

1. The global weather change, resulting mainly from excess gas from the burning of fossil fuels, will seriously affect our economic development. The harmful effects on the stratospheric ozone layer and the air pollution are also causes for concern.

2. The atmospheric concentration of greenhouse-effect gases must be stabilized. It is necessary to control and reduce the emission of these gases through international agreements based on parameters that will assure increased energy availability in developing countries as well as the adoption of efficient energy, industrial, agricultural, and transport policies.

3. Negotiations on a Framework Convention on Atmospheric Changes represents the only opportunity for the international community to reach a balance which will be individually tailored for developed and developing countries. Developed countries should reduce the emission of greenhouse-effect gases.

4. The deterioration of the ozone layer is a phenomenon that particularly affects Southern Cone countries of the American Continent. Fundamental importance is attached to participation in the amended Montreal Protocol and to the full implementation of the measures agreed upon at the meeting of the parties in London, especially to the supply of new and additional financing for the provisional multilateral fund for the implementation of the Montreal protocol. Developed countries should urgently implement reconversion measures to stop the destruction of the ozone layer. Furthermore, it will be necessary to analyze the negative consequences and possible future effects and to seek the means to limit and repair the damage and appropriately compensate those affected.

5. It is important to promote more rational use of fossil fuels and the development of technologies to reduce its harmful effect on the atmosphere. Developed and developing countries alike should formulate policies to allow a standard of life based on a more efficient and rational use of energy.

#### **II. Biological Species**

1. It is necessary to urgently promote the preservation and the rational use of biological species. Each country exerts national sovereignty over its biological or natural resources. It is essential for developed countries to cooperate with countries that have rich biological resources to strengthen the local institutional system. The international community should locally search, gather information, and control and maintain gene banks. It is essential to recognize the patrimonial rights of countries where biological species originate, especially as far as genetic resources are concerned. To this end it is necessary to adopt appropriate registries, regulations, and control. Biological species should be fully preserved, especially in those protected areas established in economic-ecological zones.

2. Biological species and biotechnology maintain an inherent relation that represents one of the most evident opportunities for sustained development. It is important to recognize the necessary relationship between access to the resources of a biological species as well as the necessary technology for its preservation.

3. The use of biotechnology in the preservation and use of germ plasma for agricultural purpose, the improvement of cultivated species, and the development of agricultural practices for maintaining the environment are essential activities that should receive solid international cooperation.

#### **III. Soil Degradation and Desertification**

1. The international community must adopt urgent measures to prevent and repair soil degradation and desertification and to prevent their multiple causes, which threaten human welfare and nutritional security. The Rio-92 conference is an opportunity to meditate on the limitations that have for the last two decades affected the performance of international mechanisms to combat desertification and to decide on ways to renew and strengthen these mechanisms.

2. It is paramount to formulate a strategy for the use of land in relation to its environmental configuration and development potential. These two factors are conditioned to technical and scientific knowledge and supported by international programs and worthwhile prices for agricultural products in a market free from the distortions created by subsidies and various types of barriers. The importance of implementing preventive and corrective measures in areas being conserved must be recognized. It is essential, therefore, that the aforementioned measures should be tested in areas with

productive potential. Dividing it into economic-ecological zones is a particularly effective instrument.

#### IV. Forests

1. The economic exploitation of forest resources, which is a sovereign right of states, can and must be in harmony with the protection of the environment bearing in mind that forests, especially native forests, are regions where biological life is concentrated and where carbon dioxide, an important factor for the protection of the soil and water resources, is absorbed. The rational use of forests require, among other factors, good prices and access for forest products to markets under conditions that would allow their sustained development. Aside from the purely environmental aspect, it is important to recognize the importance of the forest as an economic, social, and cultural area whose complex elements are indivisible. Forest policies must consider that the forest is the habitat of mankind, whether native or not, who depend on it to live.

#### V. Water Resources

1. The recently issued Dublin Declaration on Water and Sustained Development states that the quality of human life is closely linked to the supply of potable water in sufficient quantities and at a level of purity to satisfy its needs. For this reason goals, programs, and means with definite deadlines must be established. The rational environmental management of water resources is a basic element for the conservation of the ecosystem and the promotion of individual and social human development.

2. The integrated management of water resources is therefore essential for the promotion of sustained development. The measures adopted at national and regional levels for the arrangement, conservation, and the integrated management of hydrographic basins are essential for exploiting water resources for productive activities, for controlling environmental risks, and for safeguarding health. Likewise, the control of agents that produce pollution and the adoption of preventive measures against environmental risks are instruments for development.

#### VI. Marine Environment

1. The healthy state of the oceans as a means to regulate the environment and their function to absorb carbon dioxide must become a permanent concern of the international community.

2. The deterioration of marine and coastal resources resulting from irrational exploitation and marine and earth pollution are a serious challenge for countries with rivers that depend on these resources for their economic and social development. To protect marine resources, it is necessary to effectively reduce marine pollution and establish regulations for the rational use of the oceans. The preservation of the integrity of the ecosystem requires regulations to control fishing activities, both in territorial waters and on the high seas, in accordance

with sustained ecologically compatible practices with the rational and best use of hydrobiological resources.

#### VII. Toxic and Dangerous Wastes

1. The upcoming enforcement of the Basel Convention—which will hold its first conference in Uruguay—is an encouraging event that seeks to control the movement of wastes across borders. This control must be complemented with the establishment of effective mechanisms to verify the fulfillment of the control operations that require the training of personnel and means of control. The regulations on responsibilities included in the convention are essential to ensure its effectiveness. It is also necessary to reach an agreement within the Convention to Curb Ocean Dumping of Pollutants (London 29 December 1972) to prohibit the dumping of dangerous toxic and radioactive wastes into the oceans.

2. The countries that export dangerous wastes must assume the clear responsibility that these wastes will not harm the environment. This requires a reduction of trans-border waste movements to a minimum, making it a positive step toward a healthy environment. It is also necessary to minimize the quantity and content of pollutants in dangerous wastes and to insure its secure storage or disposal as close as possible to its production site.

#### VIII. Human Settlements

1. The problems affecting the quality of life in human settlements have a global dimension because their consequences transcend national borders and acutely affect most countries. During the past 20 years, the industrialized countries have achieved outstanding improvements in the standard of living in their cities through investments and technology. In developing countries, however, the problem is reaching critical levels, and grave and unpredictable consequences of this are just around the corner.

2. Cities constitute the main economic activity centers in developing countries, but they fail to provide satisfactory answers to the basic needs of a large part of their populations. To satisfy these needs, it is necessary to prioritize problems with the basic services, particularly potable water, domestic and industrial sewage disposal, housing, urban security, energy, transport, and education.

3. The international cooperation to solve environmental questions must give special importance to eliminating poverty. In this context, rural settlements must receive special attention.

#### IX. Financial Resources and International Trade

1. The trade liberalization process promoted by the Uruguay Round of the GATT should encourage the use of resources, presently used to maintain protectionist practices, to promote more consistent policies compatible with sustainable development. Environmental protection measures must be aimed at solving specific environmental goals and should not be transformed into

discriminatory practices or disguised trade barriers. To promote sustainable development it is essential to create an international climate that encourages growth in all countries, particularly developing countries. Sustainable development presupposes progress in international equality and cooperation with developing countries in accordance with their objectives, priorities, and national development plans. To make this possible, however, it will be necessary to make new financial resources available to developing countries under favorable conditions so they can fulfill their obligations to protect the environment and promote development.

2. It is essential to establish a mechanism to implement Agenda 21 [not further identified] action programs and the multilateral juridical instruments being negotiated, which contemplate their own financial mechanisms to pursue these objectives. Within this context, existing financial sources like the Global Environmental Facility [three preceding words in English] are inadequate and only contribute in a limited way to fulfill the most important commitments on environment and development that will be assumed at the Rio-92 conference and during the discussions on biological diversity and climatic changes.

#### X. Strengthening of Institutions

1. The strengthening of national institutions, the creation or improvement of regional mechanisms, and international cooperation are essential elements to aid sustainable development.

2. It is essential to encourage increased coordination of economic policies and programs with strategies on environmental protection. This should be one of the most innovating results of the Rio-92 conference. The coordination of economic and environmental programs must be contemplated by nations as well as by international organizations.

3. Creative formulas must be found at the world level to provide the United Nations with efficient and sound mechanisms with which to face the decisions of the conference on programs on sustainable development. The programmatic actions of the conference must be planned and implemented with the full participation of developing countries to ensure that these actions match the real priorities.

Canela, 20 February 1992.

## Cuba

### Havana SUVP Giron 92 Exercise Ends

*FL2602010792 Havana Cuba Vision Network  
in Spanish 2320 GMT 25 Feb 92*

[Text] The "Giron 92" exercise ended today in Havana. The objective of the exercise was to determine efficiency levels of the United Vigilance and Protection System [SUVP]. Visits and inspections of more than 3,000 economic and social objectives were among the principle operations. The "Giron 92" exercise also included border patrols, operations to confront crime in the tourist sector, and cooperative watches in study and work centers.

Other aspects of the exercise included encounters with counterrevolutionary groups and the execution of exemplary trials. As part of the program, recreational activities were held in slum neighborhoods in coordination with the social prevention commissions.

The SUVP operates in Marianao, Regla, Habana del Este, 10 de Octubre, Plaza, and Havana Vieja.

### Matanzas Province Exceeds Electric Consumption

*FL2502222092 Havana Radio Reloj Network  
in Spanish 2033 GMT 25 Feb 92*

[Text] On 22 February, electric consumption in Matanzas Province totaled 2,150 megawatt hours, which is 145 megawatt hours above the maximum consumption figure for the period. Consequently, 15 outages have been planned since Matanzas residents have consumed more than 2,000 megawatt hours over the daily amount established for workdays.

Nevertheless, the sum total of the outages planned for Matanzas Province barely makes up 50 percent of the excess usage. [Word indistinct] other provinces in the country have been able to reduce electric consumption.

Currently, thermal-electric plants in the country generate no less than 27 megawatt hours daily, which consumes approximately 8,000 tons of oil.

### Magnetizers To Save 6,000 Tons of Oil in 1992

*FL2502142392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network  
in Spanish 1255 GMT 25 Feb 92*

[Text] The application of magnetizers at Unit No. 1 of the electricity generating plant in eastern Havana has resulted in the conservation of 24 tons of oil per month. The plant is currently magnetizing all the oil it uses, and according to specialists' evaluations, that measure will conserve 6,000 tons of oil this year. The plant is to use 81,000 tons of domestic crude this year to replace imported fuel. Each ton of Cuban oil used will save about \$50.

### Time Change Expected To Reduce Energy Use

*FL2602131392 Havana Radio Progreso Network  
in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Feb 92*

[Text] Summer time in all of Cuba will begin this year on Saturday, 4 April and will last until 10 October. At midnight on 4 April, all clocks should be moved ahead one hour. This measure will allow greater use of sunlight in industry, agriculture, economic and productive activities, and by the populace starting on 5 April. In practical terms, summer time results in natural energy conservation, although work centers should monitor those indicators that will improve energy consumption per unit of finished product and should continue their load shift measures for greater electricity conservation.

### Castro Diaz-Balart on Nuclear Development

*FL2502233592 Havana Radio Reloj Network  
in Spanish 2054 GMT 25 Feb 92*

[Text] Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, executive secretary of the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission, has said that the eighties was a vertiginous period for the development of nuclear technologies. He said that during that period, more than 1,100 university professionals trained in approximately 30 specializations in the nuclear field as a direct result of its multidisciplinary character.

Castro Diaz-Balart added that development and everything related to nuclear technology, research, and interrelation with various institutions created by the revolution began at the end of 1970. He added that the nation now has an important capability in place; it has specialists who have mastered their work and whose primary objective is to focus on vital tasks for the development of the country. He cited the food program as an example.

### Castro Meets With German Socialist Party Leader

*FL2502141992 Havana Radio Progreso Network  
in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Feb 92*

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, met on 22 February with Dr. Gregor Gysi, president of the Party of Democratic Socialism and leader of his party's group in the German parliament. During the meeting, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, the two leaders exchanged their impressions of the difficult international situation. Gysi mentioned the struggle currently being waged by members and sympathizers of the Party of Democratic Socialism under the new conditions in unified Germany to defend the interests of broad social classes in eastern Germany. He informed Castro about the activities in solidarity with the Cuban people's struggle for self-determination, against the embargo, and to defend the revolution, which his party carries out within the "Cuba, Si" working group.

**Joint Commission Session Begins in Tehran**

*FL2502142192 Havana Radio Progreso Network  
in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Feb 92*

[Text] The third session of the Cuba-Iran Joint Intergovernmental Commission is now being held in Tehran. Cooperation in health, fishing, sugar, and other sectors will be discussed. Ernesto Melendez, the minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, leads the Cuban delegation, and the Iranian representatives are headed by Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari.

**Cooperation Agreement Signed With Ecuador**

*FL2602021392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network  
in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Feb 92*

[Text] Cuba and Ecuador signed an agreement in Quito today to cooperate in the areas of education, science, and technology. The agreement, which is valid for the next five years, covers the realization of joint projects and scientific-technical research in priority areas, exchange of information, publications, and other matters.

The agreement was signed by (Oscar Aguido), acting executive director of the Ecuadoran National Science and Technology Council, and Faure Chomon Meidavilla, Cuban ambassador to Ecuador.

The agreement is considered a new step toward strengthening relations between the two countries.

**U.S. Drug Policy 'Violation' of Sovereignty**

*PA2502224692 Havana Radio Havana Cuba  
in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Feb 92*

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Final preparations are being made for the meeting between Latin America countries and the United States to discuss the drug-trafficking problem. The presidential summit will be held in San Antonio, Texas. The agenda includes the following topics: production, consumption, marketing, and fighting drugs. Another very important topic to be discussed is the impact of the struggle against drugs on the sovereignty of the countries involved.

According to the program, the meeting will be attended by the leaders of the United States, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, and Venezuela. The meeting has been called Cartagena II because it takes place exactly two years after the presidents held the first summit against drug trafficking in that old Colombian city.

The San Antonio meeting was preceded by a presummit meeting in Quito, Ecuador. In this meeting, as at the Cartagena summit, contradictions flared between the United States, the largest drug-consuming country in the world, and the Latin American countries, which produce raw material for drugs. The differences are over how the fight against drugs should be conducted, because many

times drugs are manufactured outside the those countries' borders, although countries like Peru and Colombia produce the raw material.

Differences have increased because the United States refuses to change its position and is determined to attack the problem at the producing countries' level but not at the point of consumption: the U.S. market.

The U.S. position will sooner or later negatively affect the Latin American nations' sovereignty because Washington demands the struggle against drugs be fought outside its borders. It has been rumored that at the San Antonio summit, the United States will insist on its old dream: the creation of a multinational force to combat drugs.

A few weeks ago, Bolivian media published excerpts of a document that included the position the United States will take at the San Antonio summit. The document begins by stating the need to strengthen unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral efforts against drug trafficking; to exchange information; and to have radar control and facilities to patrol sovereign seas and skies. It adds other possible operations such as the use of force on both sides of a border, the utilization of the countries' resources such as helicopters and other transportation, and the need for joint money-laundering investigations.

The document mentions joint military and police actions against drug trafficking. It was given to Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora by Robert Gelbard, U.S. principal deputy assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs, during his visit to Bolivia in January 1992.

Differences will undoubtedly arise at the San Antonio meeting. Recently Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana stated most of the revenues resulting from drugs remain in the drug-consuming countries and, thus, the latter should have the biggest share of the responsibility in the struggle against drugs. Demand would not exist if people did not consume, the minister said.

A U.S. Health Department report concedes that 37 percent of the U.S. population—75 million people—have tried drugs at some time. So responsibility in the struggle against drug trafficking could be a key word at the San Antonio summit. The U.S. President's Office has prepared a \$12.7 billion budget proposal for the struggle against drugs. That amount is to be shared among Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, and Mexico. It is implicit the aid will stipulate that action by U.S. narcotics police be approved. The eventual violation of the countries' sovereignty will be a hot topic at the forthcoming summit.

**Radio Notes 'Injustice' in U.S. Justice System**

*FL2502194392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network  
in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Feb 92*

[Report by Dianelys Garcia Sixto]

[Text] As part of the powerful capitalist propaganda machine, Cuba has recently been the target of an intense

international campaign challenging our legal procedures and the way enemies of the revolution are tried and sentenced. We have shown more than once how procedural rights are respected and how the justice of Cuban law falls with all its legitimacy and force only when there is conclusive proof that the laws that govern our constitution, and therefore our country, have been violated.

These slanderous campaigns have come primarily from the United States, a country in which the death sentence is practically a daily event in full view of all. That is the case with Manuel, a 24-year old Latino who will die by lethal injection on 27 March. His family members condemned this decision today before the world.

[Begin recording of first unidentified speaker] In 1984, Manuel was riding in a car with four Hispanic friends and one American friend in (Juliet) when they were stopped by a patrol car. Since Manuel was carrying a gun in a bag, he ran away because he thought they were being stopped and he was going to have problems. However, when he saw that the police were going to catch him, he threw the gun away so he could surrender to the authorities. Apparently the policeman, instead of putting the handcuffs on him and reading him his rights, began to beat him brutally.

They fought, and at one point the policeman took out his gun. They fought over the gun, and the policeman was killed; but they were bullets from his own gun, not from Manuel's. There were powder marks on the policeman's arm and chest that showed that he had fired the gun himself. The policeman had a high blood-alcohol level and a history of police brutality.

Of course, the idea that a Hispanic would kill a policeman is taboo, and half an hour after this happened, Manuel's friends and family sent him to Mexico because the order had been given to shoot to kill him. One year later, he was brought back illegally from Mexico. [end recording]

A pro-justice organization in the United States has also spoken out.

[Begin second unidentified speaker recording] We as an organization are asking that a new trial be held. It should be a fair trial with a jury of white, Hispanic, and black people; one that really represents a variety of people. It should show, not necessarily his innocence.... [pauses] but it should be a fair and impartial trial. [end recording]

Most of those sentenced to death in the United States are blacks or Latinos. To legal impunity is added racial discrimination, which leads to death itself. [sentence as heard] We are simply witnessing an example of the injustice of the U.S. justice system itself.

### **Commentary Views Cheney's Visit to Latin America**

PA2602132892 Havana Radio Havana Cuba  
in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Feb 92

["Our America" commentary—read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney has completed a tour of several Latin American countries. Some observers have seen this trip as more than a review of military affairs in those nations: They have seen a political tour with electoral aspirations. Cheney briefly toured Guatemala, Panama, Brazil and Argentina and extended his trip to Chile, although his last two days there were spent in the southern city of Punta Arenas and did not involve official activities.

In Guatemala, Cheney supported advances in human rights made by President Jorge Serrano Elias. That surprised the Guatemalan public, which knows that during Serrano's first year in office, nearly 6,300 charges of human rights violations were filed and there were nearly 10 murders every day. Cheney said if Guatemalan progress in human rights continues, the U.S. Congress could reconsider resuming military aid that was suspended in December 1990. After those kind words, Guatemalan military leaders had high hopes for future U.S. technical and financial cooperation.

In Panama, where Cheney stayed four hours, the U.S. defense secretary reiterated to President Guillermo Endara that U.S. troops would leave the canal area according to the terms stipulated in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. His statements seemed to disappoint ultrarightist Panamanians who want the U.S. bases to remain in the country despite the treaty. Questioned by journalists, Cheney denied the United States would transfer Southern Command headquarters to Brazil. Few were convinced, because the powerful enclave with 10 bases and nearly 10,000 members has served the United States in its attempt to control the military activities of the entire continent. Many people think that after complying with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, the Pentagon would be pleased to relocate the bases in a Southern Cone country. Rumors suggest Brazil could be a leading candidate.

In his visit to Brazil, however, the U.S. defense secretary apparently did not raise the issue of military bases with President Fernando Collor de Melo. He did discuss possible joint antidrug-trafficking strategies. The Brazilian media did not respond favorably to the idea.

In Argentina, Cheney did secure President Carlos Menem's support for the U.S. embargo against Iraq in exchange for military supplies to the South American nation.

In Chile, a country with a powerful weapons industry, Cheney talked with the government about the steady increase in U.S. Government support for the country.

The U.S. defense secretary's tour, which was without any formal working meetings or agreement signings, had a clear political overtone. It was a search for a new military cooperation strategy with potential allies in Latin America.

We must not rule out the opinions of those who say that following his Persian Gulf war performance, Cheney is waiting for better conditions and for President George

Bush to wear out politically before deciding to run for president in 1996. Time will tell if these observations are correct.

## Haiti

### Cedras Reportedly Agrees To Signing of Agreement

FL2502214392 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil  
Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] The information we have on the agreement signed by the Haitian parliamentary delegation, the prime minister-designate, and Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide leads us to say that General Raoul Cedras, Army commander in chief, agreed that this agreement should be signed.

### Aristide Disagrees With Pardon

FL2502185392 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole  
in French 1500 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] A change has been noted in the remarks of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide just prior to signing an agreement on the Haitian crisis in Washington.

Contrary to the agreement, Jean-Bertrand Aristide is not considering granting a pardon to General Cedras, the Army commander in chief. He made this statement publicly on the American ABC television network. This is contrary to the agreement that has already been reached.

The discussions were difficult yesterday between Aristide and Prime Minister-designate Rene Theodore. There was disagreement between the two men as to when the president would return.

### Accord Signed

FL2602124392 Bonaire Trans World Radio  
in English 1130 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has signed an accord which is expected to eventually return him to power. The accord, signed between Mr. Aristide and the Haitian lawmakers, provides for a general amnesty for all involved in last September's coup except for what the agreement called common criminals.

The accord also calls for the establishment of a transitional government of national unity with socialist Rene Theodore as prime minister. Eventually, it would restore Mr. Aristide to power.

The signing was delayed for a time over a disagreement about keeping the coup leader, General Raoul Cedras, in his post. That sticking point has been resolved, and Mr. Aristide has conceded to keep him on. But Radio Netherlands cites diplomats who say the differences may still be not resolved and that the accord still has to be endorsed by the Haitian parliament as well as the military.

### Political Leaders React to Agreement

FL2502233492 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole  
in French 1700 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Hubert de Ronceray, Mobilization for National Development leader, says the Washington agreement binds neither the provisional government nor the Haitian Constitution. He says the document has no importance for Haiti.

Max Bourjolly, Unified Party of Haitian Communists second in command, thinks that an important step was taken with the signing of the agreement in Washington. Allow us to point out that those were the political leaders' reactions before the deposed president changed his remarks. Let us listen to Max Bourjolly.

[Begin Bourjolly recording] We think that this signed agreement is a positive one. It is an opportunity for the country to come out of the crisis that has thrown it into despair. It demonstrates that reason has finally won over all partisan quarrels. We think we should take advantage of the agreement to see how we can restore the economic mechanism, to assure everyone about the sector to which they belong, starting with securing Haiti's Army so our country can normalize and take its rightful place in the international community. It is then an act of understanding, and I believe that every patriot should applaud what happened in Washington.

The provisional government was in place with the clear mission of holding elections in 45 to 90 days. The time is over and the mission has not been achieved. Parliament declared on 6 January that the mission had not been achieved. Parliament acknowledged that the mission was not achieved and asked them to remain in charge so there would not be a power vacuum before a solution was found. The solution is now found, and even if they did not participate because they do not have international recognition—anyway, the agreement is not between foreigners and Haitians, but between Haitians—it is then a political agreement that was signed. Therefore, I think wisdom, patriotism, and a sense of honor will convince the executive, meaning Judge Joseph Nerette, Jean-Jacques Honorat to learn the whole story and the consequences of this agreement. From there, they can create the conditions that will allow the transfer of power under the most favorable conditions for each party. As far as we are concerned, we think they have served the country at a time when the nation needed them. We must give them the possibility to leave with the honor due their rank and the work accomplished during the difficult times we have faced since the 30 September coup. [end recording]

### Further on Demonstration at Legislative Palace

FL2502191292 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil  
Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Another reaction to the signing of the 23 February agreement was a demonstration that involved some 300 people. The demonstration took place in the

capital, and the participants called for the arrest of the parliamentarians who went to participate in the negotiations. The demonstration was organized by Reverend Richard Vladimir Jeanty, the leader of the Haitian Party of God [PARADIS]. One of our colleagues was present.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Over 300 people demonstrated 24 February in front of the Haitian parliament in Port-au-Prince to protest the agreement that was signed on Sunday night in Washington for a negotiated solution to the Haitian crisis and to urge the arrest of the deputies and senators who signed that agreement. The leader of PARADIS, Rev. Vladimir Jeanty, thinks the parliament should vanish together with all senators and deputies who were elected in the 16 December elections. He said the political future of the country depends only on elections. [passage omitted]

There were several incidents during this demonstration, such as the drubbing given to two young men by a group of demonstrators and the fact that several demonstrators took down the Haitian flag and tried to tear it up. After those incidents, the head of the police, Colonel Michel Francois, intervened to demand order and to tell the demonstrators that the parliamentarians, just as the demonstrators themselves, had the right to ask for what they wanted. Such requests, however, must be made peacefully. He added that the police were present to observe and maintain order. [passage omitted]

During the demonstration, we observed several placards that said: Up With the Sovereign Army; We Do Not

Want an Imported Solution; Up With Article 149 of the Constitution; and Up With a Free and Independent Haiti. Several demonstrators demanded the arrest of many senators and deputies. [passage omitted] [end recording]

#### Army Issues Warning

*FL2502192492 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil  
Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Feb 92*

[Text] The Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] General Headquarters advises the public that during the demonstration that took place on 24 February, a group of individuals desecrated the national flag, which was flying atop the Legislative Palace.

The FADH warns the population against such acts and condemns this deed, which is totally unpatriotic and does not honor the Haitian people, the flag being the symbol of Haiti's unity and national sovereignty.

The FADH say they are aware of their mission and are ready to handle and supervise all demonstrations that respect the country's laws and institutions. They are also ready to repress all deeds contrary to public order.

The FADH ask all citizens to control their passions and remain calm to establish the necessary relations between the various components of the nation. That will allow the political and social problems to be solved with dialogue instead of violence.

**Joint Antidrug Agreement Reached With Belize**

PA2202144592 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish  
0203 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Chetumal, 21 Feb (NOTIMEX)—On 22 February, the Governments of Mexico and Belize agreed on joint actions to fight drug trafficking and prevent the illegal commerce of lumber and marine species on the border between the two countries.

At a meeting in the state of Quintana Roo of the joint committee for the assessment and follow-up of the program to reinforce border accesses between Mexico and Belize, delegates of the two governments will present new proposals to make area surveillance more efficient.

The following Mexican officials will participate in the meeting: Ricardo Garcia Villalobos, special programs coordinator of the Deputy Attorney General's Office in the south; and Felipe Remolina Roqueni, Attorney General Office [PGR] coordinator of advisers on crimes against health.

The Belizean Government will be represented by Bernard Evans, permanent secretary of the Ministry for Internal Affairs and Defense; Kent Haylock, police commissioner; Ruben Rodriguez, deputy police intelligence commissioner; Denis Hoy, vice president of the Council for the Prevention of Drug Abuse; and Jorge Bawa

Zingh, magistrate of the Supreme Court of Justice. Jaime Gonzalez Carranca, legal attache of the Guatemalan Attorney General's Office, will also attend.

Garcia, the special programs coordinator, denied that the Yucatan peninsula is used by drug traffickers. He said that the Attorney General's Office has tightened surveillance in the area because it is the first point of contact for aircraft from Central and South America.

In addition, Garcia pointed out that the amount of drugs produced in the peninsula is low, although the terrain and climate in Tabasco and Chiapas lend themselves to the production of marijuana and poppy.

He added that in the past six months, the PGR intensified its campaign, in coordination with the Guatemalan authorities, to eradicate plantations in these two states.

He admitted, however, that jet turbine fuel is being sold illegally in the Yucatan peninsula and that drug traffickers' planes refuel in the region.

Finally, Garcia said the authorities have discovered turbine fuel storage sites in several states in the Yucatan peninsula. Approximately 16,000 liters of the fuel were confiscated in the country's southeast region during the second half of 1991.

**Honduras****Rebel Officers To Be Dishonorably Discharged**

PA2502175292 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO  
in Spanish 22 Feb 92 p 5

[Report by Armando Villanueva]

[Text] During an exclusive conversation with this newspaper on 21 February, Division General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, commander general of the Armed Forces, stated that any officer involved in the so-called "General Jose Trinidad Cabanas" Revolutionary Movement will be dishonorably discharged immediately.

Discua Elvir reacted very bitterly to a letter sent to radio stations by a group of young officers expressing their total dissatisfaction with the state of affairs within the heart of the Armed Forces. The officers—whose names were not disclosed—have revealed that they were once known as the Subordinate Officer's Renewal Front (Frenos), but they had decided to name themselves the "General Jose Trinidad Cabanas" Revolutionary Movement, in view of the prevailing situation in the armed forces.

In their communique, they accused Discua Elvir of conducting a series of combined maneuvers with the National Party of Honduras, and even with President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, aimed at getting reelected at the Ministry of Defense and Public Security.

The young officers stated in their communique that those persons who form part of the Armed Forces' hierarchy are only interested in becoming "richer than they already are." They also sent a parallel communique to the Higher Council of the Armed Forces pointing to "indifference by the military hierarchy" to drug trafficking and citing the specific cases of Colonel Leonidas Torres Arias, General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, and Colonel Hubert Boden. These cases "have been reported but not investigated."

Discua Elvir stated that the high military command will "not consider" the content of the communique sent to the media by the rebelling officers. He added, however, that those persons who wrote the communique are outside the military institution.

After indicating that the main objective of the aforementioned officers is to destabilize the Armed Forces, Discua Elvir, a five-star general, stated: "The communique is a lie, like any other." He stated: "We do not take it seriously. It does not worry us because they are not part of the institution." Nevertheless, Discua Elvir later noted that this is a case of "resentful people who are not at all credible."

Discua Elvir insisted upon calling the communique issued by the revolutionary officers of the "Jose Trinidad Cabanas" Revolutionary Movement, a "pasquinade and a lie." He noted that, within the Armed Forces, "There is

a clear and defined hierarchy, as well as a clear command. We all have a mission to accomplish." Discua Elvir stated that those persons are only interested in destroying the military institution" [no opening quotation mark as published], and what they want is to detract attention from the country's real problems.

Regarding accusations made by the rebelling officers that all the actions they have denounced are aimed at getting Discua Elvir reelected to his post, he stated it is another one of those statements that is "totally removed from reality."

Within that context, Discua Elvir noted that the commander general of the Armed Forces is elected by all the officers that form part of the military hierarchy, and not through a unilateral and personal decision taken by the person who occupies the post of commander general.

The head of the Armed Forces went so far as to call the officers who are behind the controversial communique "ordinary," and insisted that its content does not worry the military command. Upon being consulted about the measures to be taken by the high command against the persons who signed the communique, Discua Elvir did not think twice before stating with much assurance that "they definitely will be dishonorably discharged immediately" if they are found guilty following investigations into the matter.

Consequently, Discua Elvir pointed to Articles 258 and 259 of the law creating the Armed Forces, articles that establish sanctions against officers attempting to destabilize the Armed Forces. Article 258 states: "No officer in active service will be able to issue opinions on service matters that denigrate or criticize the Armed Forces and attempt to destabilize public order or the security of the state."

Meanwhile, Article 259 of the same legal instrument indicates that "infringement of the matters stipulated in Article 258 will result in the person responsible being definitely separated and dishonorably discharged with the previous consent of the Armed Forces Superior Council. This council will act as the decision-making body of the Superior Tribunal without affecting the corresponding legal action."

**Nicaragua****Chamorro's Reconciliation Day Speech Reported**

PA2502224992 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network  
in Spanish 1233 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Speech by President Violeta Chamorro during the National Reconciliation Day ceremonies in Las Palmas, Managua—live]

[Text] Nicaraguan brothers: Two years ago, on a morning like this, I returned home after casting my vote. I voted not too far from my home. It was the first and truly free and democratic election in Nicaragua's history. Today we commemorate one of the most important and

beautiful events in America's history. On 25 February 1990, the people of Nicaragua decided—privately but with shared thoughts and with an unparalleled civic rebellion—to leave behind a past full of violence and to make possible, through their votes, the happy dawn of a free and democratic republic.

It was the dream of our liberators and forefathers to move the hand of a people at a time when they were casting votes with ballots that would change the history of Nicaragua. It was the dream of my husband, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. He gave his life for this dream and, by so doing, inspired the people. The people picked up his banner and hoisted it in silence during the 25 February elections. It was a victory of civic courage over fear and apathy; a victory of peace over war. Above all, it was a victory of reconciliation over rancor and fratricidal hate. The Nicaraguan people voted because they believed they could change things and solve the big problems we were experiencing: problems such as obligatory military service, a destructive war, and continuous monetary devaluations.

During the first 22 months of my government, we put the war behind us. First, we abolished the military service and witnessed the disarmament of 22,000 members of the Nicaraguan Resistance. More recently, we witnessed the disarmament of thousands of men who rearmed because they did not believe in peace. Recontras and recompas realized their mistake and, a few days ago, surrendered their weapons again. This time, it was a final surrender. Every weapon thrown into the garbage represents a new life; every weapon surrendered is a chance to boost production and guarantee freedom. Every weapon buried is a Nicaraguan who leaves behind underdevelopment and begins to improve his standard of living. Every weapon surrendered is a victory of dialogue over violence and a victory of life over death.

Two years ago, when I cast my vote, I thanked God. I saw the sun of the Republic shine and said: Blessed be Nicaragua. Instead of burying her children, she will bury forever the weapons that kill her children. As a mother, I felt this would be the blessing that would open the path to freedom, true sovereignty, and dignity of the Nicaraguan people. I was not mistaken. Despite all kinds of obstacles, disastrous legacies, and the dangerous temptation to use force and injustice, peace has been winning heart after heart. Even weapons have been laid down to form a growing mountain of understanding and fraternity. We must meditate at the foot of this mountain of weapons willingly laid down. This had never happened in Nicaragua. It is the result of strong belief and reconciliation.

As of today in Nicaragua, only constitutional army members will be allowed to carry weapons. We are beginning a new phase of disarming civilians. During this phase, we will pay for every weapon surrendered. This important task will be the Government Ministry's

responsibility. In the next few days, it will announce the mechanisms for the implementation of this phase throughout the country.

On 10 January, I said one of the government's most important tasks would be to strengthen public order and the state of law. I have, therefore, ordered the National Police forces—and, should it become necessary, the Army—to protect law and order and to act firmly against persons or groups who insist on using weapons of war to violate the rights and properties of other Nicaraguans for Whom my government must provide protection and security. The public order forces were established to reestablish and maintain order, public security, and peace throughout the country.

Meanwhile, in the economic area, we have solved the painful problem of the weekly devaluations. For the past year, we have had a stable currency despite the fact some Nicaraguans doubted the success of this great plan. The constant increase in prices was stopped; there are no more rationing or long lines. Haggling and credit [fiado] are back for the good of the housewives. However, today we face a new problem: unemployment. We inherited this problem as a result of the famous 1988 cutbacks. This problem has been heightened by the thousands of young men who left the Army, the 22,000 former Resistance members, the 50,000 Nicaraguan repatriates and refugees, and those who left the government and have now joined the ranks of the unemployed. Today we do not have war or devaluation, but we do have unemployment. But we will overcome this problem. As president of all Nicaraguans, I am sure that, just as we solved those two major problems, we will also solve the problem of unemployment, even if it takes us one or two years.

Today, times are more difficult than in the past. The prices of our main exports, such as cotton and coffee, have dropped in the international market. Competition for foreign loans—very necessary for our economic recovery—has increased. The low productivity of our manpower, together with the considerable technological backwardness of our national companies, have placed our economy at a disadvantage in the international market. It is very difficult for us to compete in those markets. I want to be honest with all of you. I must say we are facing a difficult situation that once again puts the Nicaraguan people to a test. This situation calls for us to make sacrifices, to put forth our best effort, and to strengthen our determination to fight and use our Nicaraguan [pinolera] ingenuity. I am sure that the Nicaraguan people will do their best, and we are going to recover the time we lost during the war.

On this important day, we must think and act like patriots for the good of Nicaragua. Because of the government's commitment to the people to solve their problems, I wanted to celebrate this National Reconciliation Day, not only with a popular event but also with a political gathering and without declaring it a national holiday. Instead, I chose to celebrate this day with a working tour with members of my cabinet, businessmen,

and workers, and to visit the important public investment projects that my government has been carrying out in Managua and in the surrounding areas. This is part of the big public investment plan we promised to develop in 1992.

My dear Nicaraguans: Today we celebrate National Reconciliation Day and bury the weapons of selfishness and hate. Today, 25 February, let us take an oath to do away with all that hurts that divide us. May the fire of patriotism and fraternity forever burn those old homicidal arms. May our glorious flag never again be stained with the blood of brothers. Let us dedicate this year to work; we will never be successful as a nation if we do not work more than before and more than the others did. We will never have a big homeland, like the one Dario, Sandino, and Pedro Joaquin dreamt of, if we are incapable of making sacrifices. This is not the time to ask for more wages and subsidies. This is not the time to ask: What does the government do for me? It is time to ask: What are we going to do for the Nicaraguan people? Now that we live in peace, we can make our dream of a successful, free, worthy, and beautiful Nicaragua come true. Let us celebrate National Reconciliation Day with work, which as our national anthem states, is our worthy reward.

Thank you my dear friends. [applause]

### **Government-Yatama Talks, Agreement Noted**

PA2502234092 Managua BARRICADA  
in Spanish 24 Feb 92 pp 1, 10

[Article by special correspondent Marcio Vargas]

[Text] Puerto Cabezas—The solution to the serious conflict that began one week ago in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) apparently began here on 23 February, with the signing of the first agreement between the central government and the former Miskito fighters of Yatama [organization of Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians, and members of Creole organizations].

Just a few hours after experiencing dangerous and tense moments in a haphazard meeting with hostile persons in this city, Government Minister Carlos Hurtado, head of the government delegation, signed a 10-point agreement that includes the withdrawal of the joint army and police forces sent to RAAN as reinforcements. The agreement also stipulates that the National Police will arrive 24 February in Waspan "to coordinate" with rebels under Manuel Cunningham, alias Commander Tigre 17, who remained in the town to "reestablish order" while the general disarmament negotiations continue.

Another point of the agreement creates two "security areas" to be controlled by the Special Disarmament Brigade (BED), under the supervision of the OAS International Commission of Support and Verification. In these areas, the government agreed not to use military force, and the Yatama rebels agreed "to respect the law and maintain public order."

The 10-point document was signed by the main leaders of Yatama, the government delegates, and the support and verification commission representatives. It establishes that 50 former Yatama fighters will be incorporated into the area's National Police, while 40 others will join the BED.

"This is a complex region, the most complex in the country. That is a fact," Hurtado said on 23 February, at the end of a 30-hour uninterrupted negotiating session.

"I cannot give you an opinion; the negotiations continue, we will see how this ends," said Tigre 17, who was accompanied by top leader Osorno Coleman, alias Commander Blas. The meetings were held in classrooms at a nursing school.

At first it was believed the agreements might be signed at noon, and some local leaders summoned Yatama followers to a small sports center to inform them of the results of the long negotiations. But the talks were extended, and Hurtado—accompanied by the other delegation members, including Brooklyn Rivera, the Miskito leader and head of the Nicaraguan Institute for the Development of the Autonomous Regions of the Atlantic Coast—decided to notify them personally.

Approximately 50 heavily armed BED troops were in charge of security for the central government delegates. Once they were inside the building, Hurtado was rebuked by some 1,000 Yatama followers, who voiced their discontent over the militarization of the city and the arrival of special army and police troops in the area. Hurtado spoke in general terms about the negotiations, then prepared to return to the site of the talks. But the people demanded he stay to listen to their complaints and answer their questions.

Shouts in the Miskito language got louder, and the BED soldiers became nervous. A woman came up to Hurtado and shouted that the Miskitos did not want more war. The tension and shouting got worse. Leaving the place was very difficult because the demonstrators crowded in.

"Had we stayed a little longer, who knows what we would have had to do," a BED official said when he finally got some fresh air outside the place.

In addition to meeting with the leaders of some 400 Yatama rebels, Hurtado managed to sign agreements with the Autonomous Regional Government, which continues to oppose Brooklyn Rivera. The main agreement with the regional government establishes that a joint commission with the central government will begin work in March to implement the Law on Autonomy.

"This is long and complex, and we will return on 26 February to continue the talks," Hurtado said, as he rushed back to Managua on an Air Force plane that managed to take off at great risk from an unlit landing strip.

### Vice President Comments on UNO Coalition

PA2602042292 Managua Radio Catolica  
in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Virgilio Godoy, vice president of the Republic and UNO [National Opposition Union] leader, has said the time to redefine the UNO's role has arrived. After the government slammed the door in Godoy's face during the celebration of the second anniversary of the electoral victory, UNO should no longer wait for the government to change its course of action in order to meet the promises it made to the people.

Within the UNO, a current is proposing that the coalition begin making public demands to the government to make it fulfill its electoral promises. But there are some parties that oppose this, saying it is best to speak to the government in private. UNO leaders are blaming the growing unemployment that is affecting the country on the policies of Antonio Lacayo. Soon we will present statements by Vice President Godoy to "The Awakening" newscast. Let us listen:

[Begin Godoy recording] [Words indistinct] have a number of questions on what has happened, what is taking place, and what will happen in the future. In the case of UNO, evidently, some kind of reversion has gradually taken place—especially with the executive branch—in light of the obvious differences between the political coalition and the government, a government that resulted from the coalition's efforts.

For example, it should be pointed out that President Chamorro was invited to the ceremony of [word indistinct] on 20 February. She turned down the invitation in a clear-cut and explicit manner, under the pretext that she had a previous engagement that prevented her from being there. Later I was told that the Political Council of Managua also invited the president to participate in the ceremony marking the second anniversary of the elections, and her response was the same. However, she does not turn down invitations for other kinds of celebrations. This can serve as a basis for UNO to redefine more clearly and precisely what it is going to do in the near future, in the face of this incident, which leaves no room for further interpretation.

With respect to the vice presidency, it faces a very complex situation: On one hand, it is politically committed to UNO, which brought me to the vice presidency and to which I am loyal. I recognize the UNO as the force that took me to the vice presidency. On the other hand, the vice presidency is an official and government function that is somehow marked by the laws of the country and other international commitments. Sometimes this complicates things. However, I believe that in the last two years things have been more or less clear.

The vice presidency faces a very difficult situation stemming from the expulsion of the office of vice president from the Government House two years ago; all the maneuvers to limit its importance; the fulfillment of its

obligations, as stated by law; and its existing obligations resulting from political commitments. However, one thing is very clear to me. The loyalty toward the Nicaraguan people, who voted for UNO on 25 February, and the loyalty toward UNO, which supported these candidacies, should be placed before everything else.

We cannot afford to confirm a rule that has already been established and that sometimes has other than political connotations, such as the election of Miss Nicaragua, for example—where one thing is promoted and another thing results. We believe, as I have said many times, politics should be reassessed in the sense that political promises must be kept. No excuses should be made up for failing to fulfill promises, obligations, or commitments. We must restore the role of politics so the people can trust and have faith in political movements, parties, coalitions, and candidates, who can ultimately improve their moral and economic conditions. [end recording]

What is the UNO going to do in view of the country's serious economic crisis? Vice President Godoy was interviewed on the second anniversary of the 1990 elections, and this was his answer.

[Begin Godoy recording] Several things can be done. I think in this case, what will be better than last year, or the last few years, is the union among the deputies who remain faithful to the UNO. They, as legislators, can give the country the appropriate legal instruments to counter the poverty that covers the nation. That is one thing. But I think there will also be greater cooperation between local governments—municipal governments. They are very weak governments though because the country is still being run under a centralist, almost dictatorial, point of view. This point of view was inherited and has not changed because the Constitution is awaiting reforms to give the government power structure a little more balance and a democratic sense.

The mayors and municipal councils represent the most immediate alternative to democratize the country, despite their weakness. I think this movement is consolidating them more and more each day, despite certain maneuvers we must point out that constitute an attempt to deactivate municipal government's vigilant and unifying attitude. One maneuver is the upcoming presentation of a reform package to the Municipalities Law. This package will try to introduce a provision calling for the mayors to be changed every so often during the six-year presidential term. This will be a sort of crowbar that represents a complete destabilization of the municipal government. Officials will be working toward the next election, not toward the real tasks. Despite this—which the mayors see as an evident danger to their jobs and their work in the municipalities—the mayoral officials and the municipal governments are coming closer every day. This gives the country the opportunity to move certain projects forward within the municipal government order. [end recording]

Who will face the people who feel deceived by the government's shortcomings? Vice President Godoy answers.

[Begin Godoy recording] This has been studied for several months and is still being studied. The fact that there is no answer yet is precisely because of the dualities that have been found, such as: What is the situation? Is this a UNO government? Is the UNO with the government? Does the government still recognize the UNO? What is going on? The UNO has used these last two years to try to clarify its role and position in the national political process. Now that the government has slammed the door in its face with regard to the second anniversary celebrations, I do not expect the UNO will continue to wait indefinitely for a close political association with the government. The government evidently is not interested. This has already been stated by one of the many officials at the Presidency, who said dialogue was no longer necessary because everything was resolved. The government does not need any help, and much less the UNO's help, in solving its problems. It was like saying: Well, we thought of you because we needed you, and now we do not feel we need you, so get lost—period.

I suppose, then, that this inevitably leads to a better and broader redefinition of the alliance, to determine what its role will be in the future and how that role will be carried out. You cannot continue to say: We say nothing because the government came from the UNO—two years ago, perhaps, but it came from the UNO—so we are going to wait. I believe that UNO has very little time and must make a decision—the wisest and strongest possible decision. [end recording]

#### **Borge Reiterates Sandinist Principles, Goals**

PA 502154192 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO  
in Spanish 24 Feb 92 p 8

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Tomas Borge, commander of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, on 23 February affirmed Sandinist principles and emphasized the need to create a national project "to adjust the FSLN's historical plan to current times" and "to reevaluate our relations with the U.S. Government."

Tomas spoke at the closing of an assembly attended by more than 500 members of the association of FSLN combatants and historical collaborators. Borge warned about establishing a new type of relationship with the U.S. Government. No one "should entertain great hopes" because the U.S. Government is clever, extremely distrustful, inclined to be intolerant, and shows more cruelty than understanding."

Borge expressed his personal doubts that the U.S. Government would acknowledge a rapprochement. He added: "It would be a great achievement if the U.S. Government allows us to stay alive. Imperialism is still a reality that cannot be denied, now more than ever. We

will continue to face its international abuses, which could increase now that it is the only superpower in the world."

He said, in the same manner, that we must not forget our principles in international relations, we cannot forget them in our relations with the government." He stressed the need to "support positive government actions to reduce unemployment, and cooperate in attaining economic stability, although not at the cost of workers' hunger and sacrifice."

Sandinists must clearly define our position before the government with honesty, prudence, firmness, and courage. We must leave no doubts that could create mistrust within our revolutionary family."

In his speech, Borge recalled how the FSLN was born with a "handful of dreamers," but in 1979 "we grew like an overflowing river and created a party directed by circumstances from the top, which led to a unanimous conspiracy to silence criticism, except at the National Directorate level where criticism was always levied."

"Now, we are a big party, the country's largest and most influential party. We are one of the parties with the most prestige in quantitative and qualitative terms—one of the largest parties of Latin America. We are seeking an internal democracy that will grow broader and allows its members to speak up and make rebuttals and to counter rebuttals.

He commented on recent developments stemming from sectors within the Sandinist family, such as the forum that met for three days at the CIPRES [Center for Sociological Research] and the declaration by the Sandinist Youths. He said: "The growing criticism should not surprise us, much less alarm us, because it constitutes a positive sign of our times."

"The emergence of internal currents would be negative and alarming because, in sum, it would mean taking a leap into division." "Diversity of views is good, necessary, and healthy, of course, but without renouncing our principles. The creation of autonomous groups and organizations outside the decisions of the Congress, the Sandinist Assembly, and the National Directorate becomes extremely dangerous."

Our own experience, and the experience of similar political situations indicating unity, constitutes a sort of life insurance. Unity is not just an adding up, but a multiplication, of forces because "we have to be big, not just in quality, but also in quantity, because quantity is also a reflection of unity," Borge stated.

"Unity is life insurance for future victories; divisions are death certificates. Division is a passport to the cemetery of our own revolutionary organization. If silence was once acceptable—let us admit it—necessary for the sake of unity, the explosion of opinions is now an indispensable element to find coherence and strengthen a new kind of unity stronger than in the past," the FSLN leader noted.

Borge said unity cannot be jeopardized by subjective interpretations, because "FSLN leaders in assemblies and public forums already expressed their views on what is now referred to as the giveaway." On this matter, we must note that the immense majority of lands handed out during the transition period by the Sandinist government fell within the framework of land reform. Following the electoral defeat and before the new government took office, lands continued to be handed out to meet demands."

"Out of the 10,000 revised deeds during this period, there were only 292, a concrete fact that contradicts the statements by our adversaries." [sentence as published] "Cases of abuse no doubt exist; they are a blot on the universe of titles caused by the abuse of a minority taking advantage of that just endeavor."

Borge said, "We must demand the enforcement of the existing legal and ethical means that can and ought to be used," to correct those instances and to punish wrongdoing. "If some (Sandinist) comrades have material resources, they have the moral obligation to act in solidarity with the masses who do not have anything." "Sandinists must promote projects, despite all our limitations, to help the defenseless young people who have no jobs and are facing untold hardships. The idea of creating foundations for this purpose is commendable, and I paid great attention to the proposal by Comrade Maria Lourdes Jiron to create a foundation to combat unemployment," he indicated.

In his speech, the FSLN National Directorate member, hailed the Movement of Historic Fighters and Volunteers of the FSLN, whom he described as "suffering militants today, and victorious militants tomorrow."

"Now, they are suffering unemployment, low wages, precarious services, and lack of housing. "You have hung your knapsacks, contact bombs, and rifles from the beams of houses as symbols of past glories," but you have dreams and hopes and will be tomorrow's winners.

During the ceremony, Borge awarded militant badges, after a group from the Movement of Fighters read a statement and reaffirmed they will not let Managua Mayor Arnoldo Aleman and Sports Minister Carlos Garcia remove the remains of 18 fighters buried in the San Jose Oriental neighborhood.

## **Panama**

### **Government Urged To Organize for Canal Takeover**

PA2402201592 Panama City EL PANAMA  
AMERICA in Spanish 24 Feb 92 p 6A

[From the "Hidden Truths" column by Tomas A. Cabal: "If the Panamanian Government Fails To Organize, the U.S. Congress Will Be Up to Its Tricks in 2000"]

[Text] In previous articles we warned what could happen if the Panamanian Government fails to organize to take

over the administration of the canal in 2000. Indolence, slumber, local pursuit of leadership, and disorganization marking the present government threatens the transfer of the canal administration by the U.S. Government.

The recent U.S. Congress debates—where influential congressmen closely associated with the Pentagon have voiced doubts about Panama's ability to manage the canal—is the first alert that this issue will become more complex as the scheduled date for the transfer of the canal administration, according to the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, draws near.

The situation with the reverted areas is looked upon with mistrust by the U.S. Congress, canal customers, and broad Panamanian circles that watch valuable properties of the national patrimony being wasted due to the indolence and disorganization of the present government's bureaucracy. The administration of the canal requires more than qualified labor, most of which is already Panamanian. It requires an honest and apolitical administrative system, a characteristic that is not precisely a virtue of the present government.

The complex operation of the canal, where 19th century technology will have to work in the 21st century, requires a mode of work in the public area that has not been established in Panama. This does not mean we are not prepared to manage the canal. In fact, we are already doing 85 percent of the labor and doing a good job. No. The problem lies in the lack of planning and maintenance apparent in the handling of equipment in the public sector.

The Panama Canal Administration has the organization to perform preventive maintenance, which requires working customs and methods still not incorporated into our way of living. Just look at the fleets of vehicles of the various ministries or the Public Works Ministry's heavy equipment to realize what could happen to the canal if we fail to organize ourselves immediately.

This organization must go beyond the verbosity of the executive branch. Flowery speeches will not be sufficient to implement a good administrative policy to manage the canal. We must begin by establishing the administrative career at the government level to gradually create a frame of mind in the labor force so they can function in an environment where merit, ability, and experience are the essential requirements for a public post. Nepotism, influence peddling, and corruption in the administration can turn the Panama canal into a heap of scrap iron in a short time.

If we have been unable to handle the railroad properly, what makes us think we can handle the canal? The problem is not one of money, but rather one of organization. We have less than seven years to develop this organization and market strategy and to train the personnel to assume these functions at noon on 31 January 1999.

The present administration wastes valuable time making speeches. To take charge of so complex a work as the

Panama Canal, the executive will have to speak less and act by designing a plan and strategy, as well as a well-defined short- and long-term policy.

Failing to do this will only facilitate the work of those who would like to see the canal in North American hands for ages to come.

#### **Nationalist Position on U.S. Bases Supported**

*PA2402224692 Panama City LA ESTRELLA  
DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Feb 92 p 4-A*

[Text] Ever since the controversy over the presence of U.S. military bases after 1 January 2000 began, we never hesitated to state our position. It is time for Panamanians to draw their own future, with their own solutions and authentic national initiatives. We also agree with those who believe we must recover our pride and national identity. Along the same lines, we should fulfill the Torrijos-Carter Treaties—which eliminate the foreign military presence in the Republic and our dependence upon it. However, an interest in prolonging that military presence in the country beyond the deadline established in the treaties had emerged among some national sectors. The controversy was totally discarded a few days ago with the firm and practically binding statements made by U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney during his recent visit to Panama. Cheney said his country will not maintain its military bases in the Panama Canal Zone beyond the date established in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. He added that, as it was agreed upon, the military bases will start being dismantled in coordination with the Panamanian Government.

The statements made by the high-ranking U.S. official cleared up any existing doubts in that regard. The U.S. military is leaving Panama despite the proposals made by certain interested sectors in our country and in the United States. On several occasions, when we addressed this subject, we could not help noticing the lack of interest displayed by the U.S. Government regarding the presence of its military bases in the Canal Zone. We said that the political changes in the world drove the United States to get rid of many of the strategic military bases it had in some parts of the world. The military bases in Panama were among those strategic war fronts, despite the fact they were some of the most inexpensive—as far as rent is concerned—for the imperialist government. In light of the presence of a new world, the U.S. bases have gone on to become a part of history. Under those conditions, we Panamanians had no reason to offer a new agreement about some bases the Americans did not want. The position of some national government officials and Canal Zone labor sectors who wanted to maintain that presence on our territory was always a disgrace to us. Fortunately for our national dignity, the president of the Republic and the foreign minister had stated their determination to respect the rules established in the treaties.

The statements from the U.S. defense secretary must also be a warning for all Panamanians, rulers and subjects. We must take all the necessary precautions on the path to the year 2000, in light of the historical commitment that the coming events will represent. We must organize to face that important commitment. All Panamanians are aware of the effect that the dismantling of the U.S. bases in the national territory will have on the labor force. Over 5,000 workers will become jobless and our priority will be to provide them with jobs. Not only must we adopt an independent, dignified, and nationalist posture to face the challenge. We must also be more serious about our actions in order to solve the problem and have the political, social, and economic capacity to manage an organization of such international importance as the Panama Canal. We agree with ending that military presence in the country. However, Panamanians must also have moral authority in the eyes of a world that has expressed its solidarity with our just cause, to face the historical challenge with honesty, competence, and patriotism.

We Panamanians have an opportunity to walk with our own feet, discard our dependence definitively, and solve the national problems through our own efforts and initiative. Doubtlessly, the statements by Defense Secretary Cheney seem to settle a situation that had been raising a dust cloud of national indignity and sovereign discredit. We hope the U.S. Government's decision, announced by the secretary of defense, to fulfill the Torrijos-Carter Treaties with regard to the presence of military bases in Panama, will convince a group of Panamanians who place their economic interests before those of the fatherland.

#### **Attorney General's 'Arrogant Attitude' Criticized**

*PA2502024992 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish  
24 Feb 92 pp 1, 4*

[Editorial: "The Attorney General...Beyond Good and Evil?"]

[Text] "I have no intention to resign." Those words reflected the thought, intention, and basic attitude of Attorney General Rogelio Cruz when he appeared before the Legislative Assembly last year.

Those were arrogant words, words saturated with a false omnipotent security that, according to him, was based on the absence of specific provisions determining how and by whom he could be removed from office in certain situations through trial or by other means.

The attorney general's disrespectful tone and arrogant attitude at that moment was enough to warrant a severe reprimand by the nation's main governing body, that is, the Legislative Branch—which represents the people and is authorized to issue rules to regulate the other state bodies. On that occasion, the legislators ignored the flagrant disrespect shown by his statements. But they can no longer tolerate his attitude because Mr. Cruz, far from correcting his mistake—if it was actually a mistake and not an intentional act—has done nothing else but fail to fulfill his duties as the custodian of justice.

His actions show that he has an irrevocable determination to handle justice as a privilege, that he and only he administers whimsically by jailing and freeing and granting bail to whom he wishes and by denying it to those he does not want to grant it to, whether or not they request or deserve it.

The snail's pace he has imposed on the investigation of certain cases, and the supersonic speed with which he has acted on other cases he is interested in solving, are the permanent focus of criticism against the current government team. Legislators do not escape from this criticism because of their extreme gentleness and submission, which borders on fear, of those who seem to be beyond the law and the Constitution.

The people who elected these legislators and will elect new ones in 1994 are concerned by the silence of the legislators who, with flashes of complicity, display dialectic ardor and upright honesty when voicing their criteria and impeccably reject wrongdoing in other areas of their work. But when it comes to this superman of super evil, they seem to have their hands tied—instead of adopting an important decision to show the people they are not only there, to show they are capable of assuming responsible, corrective measures against a person who is defying with impunity the sacred institution of law. This action by the Legislative Assembly would enjoy the support of the sensible majority in the country. The attorney general would probably appeal in vain the judgment of the Assembly, the people, and history.

## Argentina

### Menem Evaluates European Tour With 'Enthusiasm'

PY2502140292 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish  
24 Feb 92 p 2

["Exclusive" interview with President Carlos Menem by Carlos Eichelbaum; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [Eichelbaum] You have evaluated the results of your recent tour of Europe with enthusiasm. Are you really planning to mediate in the commercial war between the United States and the EEC countries?

[Menem] During a dialog with EEC President Jacques Delors, French President Francois Mitterrand, and French Prime Minister Edith Cresson, I stated that the masters of political and economic freedom are not doing well and that we, their disciples, are moving ahead of them. I told them: Argentina becomes the ham in the sandwich in the fight for the agricultural policies involving the masters. They laughed because I had to explain to them what the ham in the sandwich means. All we need now, I added, is that we mediate between you and the United States. Cresson caught on quickly and told me that they would accept it with great pleasure.

[Eichelbaum] Will you do it? Will you adopt a specific strategy for mediation?

[Menem] The government will adopt a concrete strategy for mediation in an effort to arrive at positions on the issue because this situation only harms our countries and those affected by the U.S. and European subsidies that benefit inefficient farmers to the detriment of our efficient producers.

[Eichelbaum] Will you personally mediate?

[Menem] As soon as I have an opportunity, I will talk with U.S. authorities. Anyway, our ministers and other appropriate officials already have been instructed to work on the issue.

[Eichelbaum] Do you think that European leaders' attitude imply a change in the conception of our foreign relations? What about the European feeling toward your government's decision for an urgent alignment with the United States?

[Menem] This image has fully changed. It has been demonstrated that Argentina is an aligned country. It maintains good relations with all countries, not only with a privileged one. The success of my tour of Europe helped to change their way of thinking toward our attitude.

[Eichelbaum] Did you make this trip to Europe with fear because of the influence of Raul Alfonsin's image in those countries?

[Menem] I would say that Argentina had a bad image in Europe. From a political viewpoint, we should not forget

that social democracy is a strong political line in those countries. They admired Alfonsin because he was closer to social democracy than to Christian democracy. All that was done in Argentina and all that was directly learned about it—and not through distorted reports—have caused a favorable reaction in Europe, not only toward Argentina but toward Justicialism, which was regarded as a pro-Nazi, Nazi, or Nazi-fascist party. We are currently considered as an example. [passage omitted]

### UK's Major Invites Menem for 1993 Visit

PY2502223492 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES  
HERALD in English 25 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] (DYN)—President Carlos Menem's trip to Britain was put off by the Conservative government of Prime Minister John Major, who has formally invited the Argentine head of state to visit his country "in the first half of 1993," 11 years after the war in the Malvinas islands.

The announcement was made yesterday by Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, who confirmed that the Menem administration would receive British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd later this year.

Di Tella made statements by radio after meeting with Hurd in London to analyze bilateral interests. The minister said that the invitation to Menem "is a sign of honour towards Argentina," following the restoration of diplomatic ties two years ago when the Malvinas sovereignty issue was placed under a diplomatic "umbrella."

Menem had requested an official visit this year but his trip was postponed as 1992 is an election year in Britain, said Di Tella. Hurd's visit will depend on the outcome of these elections, which will take place within the next two months.

Menem will be travelling to Hong Kong at the end of March for the inauguration of the World Tourism Congress, and will visit China in the first days of April.

## Brazil

### Negotiations With Paris Club Reported Deadlocked

PY2502182092 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo  
Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign debt renegotiations between Brazil and the Paris Club are deadlocked. Journalist Silvio Bocanegra provides new reports on the negotiations:

[Begin live relay] It is not true that negotiations between Brazil and the Paris Club have failed, at least for the time being. What occurred is that Brazil submitted an initial proposal yesterday on the negotiations, and creditor countries, especially Germany and Japan, opposed it. The result is that the parties continued with the negotiations by exchanging figures until late last night.

Negotiations continue at the French Economy Ministry, where the Paris Club is set up. The main point of disagreement is over Brazil's attempt to reschedule \$8.5 billion and its payment in arrears since 1988. Brazil stated that it is going through a tightening situation and asks for more time to pay. Creditors assert that overdue debts should be paid immediately and that the rest can be paid later. The negotiations have stopped at this point. [end relay]

### **Marques Opposes Price Manipulation by Cartels**

PY2202135892 *Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network*  
in Portuguese 2200 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Report by Marly Moreira from Sao Paulo]

[Excerpt] Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira has said in Sao Paulo that the decline of the inflation rate reported by the appropriate agencies is evidence of the success of government economic measures. The minister pointed out that the market has been reacting against unwarranted price increases and made it clear that the government is alert to manipulations by cartels and oligopolies.

[Begin Marques recording] We do not have mechanisms that could react fast to such manipulations, but we are trying to reorganize our supply and prices department so that, together with the appropriate agencies of the Justice Ministry organizations such as CADE [Administrative Council for Economic Defense], the Consumers Defense Secretariat, and Competitive Defense Secretariat, it can act expeditiously. If we want a market economy, we must act firmly against cartels, oligopolies, or trusts, as they do in the United States and other countries that have a free-market economy. [end recording] [passage omitted]

### **'Crisis' Created by Foreign Exchange Surplus**

PY2502160892 *Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE*  
*SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Feb 92 Economic*  
*Section p 1*

[Article by Rolf Kuntz]

[Excerpts] Excessive dollar liquidity, the liberation of frozen cruzados, and high interest rates are making the Central Bank run in circles, like a dog chasing its own tail. The foreign exchange surplus for the month reached \$1.7 billion on the 19th, amounting to an average of \$130 million per day. If the situation does not change during the rest of the month, the total surplus will reach \$2.6 billion by the end of February, or \$200 million more than in January. This will be the third time since December 1991 that the monthly surplus will exceed \$2 billion. The surplus helps our international reserves, but it also creates a day-to-day monetary policy crisis.

The excessive availability of dollars has been the main reason why the Central Bank was forced to issue money. In order to absorb the foreign currency in circulation, the Central Bank freed 2.27 trillion cruzeiros in December

and 3.28 trillion cruzeiros in January. But then, in order to withdraw the excessive money, the Central Bank has resorted to a massive sale of bonds. During the 18 February auction, for instance, the Central Bank withdrew 2.6 trillion cruzeiros from circulation. Bonds must have high interest rates to become attractive to the financial system. This stimulates entrepreneurs to purchase more dollars, which in turn are converted into cruzeiros and then used to buy bonds.

According to experts, the country has been able to evade the financial carousel so far, but only by a narrow margin. The government cannot interrupt the liberation of frozen cruzados—2.2 trillion cruzeiros on 17 February—but the system of Special Remunerated Deposits has been used to keep that money more or less repressed. The main challenge comes from exchange operations. [passage omitted]

According to Nelson Rocha Augusto, Votorantim Bank economic department manager, the situation is temporarily under control because the Central Bank was able to sell large volumes of titles. Financial operations, however, are all short term and the implementation of the country's monetary policy can become more difficult at any time. The sale of papers will become easier if people believed that inflation is coming under control. If expectations turn pessimistic, however, it will be more difficult to neutralize the excessive mass of money entering the country through exchange operations.

Besides administrative mechanisms—such as reducing the terms for advance exchange operations—the Central Bank still can use classic tools such as compulsory deposits. The only lasting solution, however, will be a fiscal adjustment that can be trusted by all parties. In this way, the Treasury will continue to be a factor for achieving monetary balance, as it has been for the past year, and the government still will have credibility for selling long-term titles.

### **Reserves Top \$10 Billion**

PY2402183592 *Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO*  
*PAULO in Portuguese 23 Feb 92 Economic Section p 5*

[Text] Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira said in Sao Paulo on 22 February that our international reserves currently stand at over \$10 billion. The Central Bank has announced that this is the highest level since 1982, when the foreign debt crisis forced the country to withdraw from the international financial market.

The figures do not, however, encourage the minister to use the dollar as the reference index and to fix the exchange rate. During a breakfast meeting with journalists, Marques said: "It is not a good idea to speak about replacing a local currency with the dollar, fixing the exchange rate, or indexation based on the dollar." He said that fixing the exchange rate, as suggested by some economists, could succeed; not as a result of one specific measure but as the natural result of the economic stabilization. He said: "This will come right at the end."

Moreira advocates maintaining existing fiscal and monetary policies and supports the idea of maintaining a good supply—for example, the super agricultural harvest. Moreira voiced optimism over the foreign debt renegotiation. He hopes to reach an agreement on 26 February with the Paris Club, which comprises representatives of creditor countries. He will go during carnival to New York to talk with private creditor banks chairmen "to endorse" the negotiations.

Moreira tried to dispel confusion over the government's attempt to end bank secrecy. He said: "We are not trying to curtail people's privacy, but we need access to a minimum level of information to prevent infraction, drug trafficking, and tax evasion." He said that the government wants to obtain data on the name, relationship, CGC [General Taxpayers Register], CPF [Tax Identity Number], and the address to match them with the available information at the Federal Revenues Office. He said that the National Treasury delegated to banks the concession of the CGC or the CPF, but failed to obtain an efficient control. False numbers are used to conceal irregular operations.

### Implications of Nuclear Energy Bill Assessed

PY2502222092 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE  
SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Feb 92 p 3

[From "The Notes and Information" page: "The Nuclear Policy"]

[Text] The draft bill on nuclear energy policy that the president has submitted to Congress will undoubtedly help us achieve more objective discussion of the issue and help us overcome the prejudice that undermines our determination to acquire relative technological knowledge in this subject. The executive branch has definitely submitted the draft bill to end, once and for all, speculation on the alleged independence that the Armed Forces had hoped to achieve in nuclear research.

By assigning the Secretariat for Strategic Affairs [SAE] the power to propose, coordinate, and execute nuclear policies, the executive branch wishes to show the people that current or future nuclear policies will be implemented, controlled, and directed by a civilian organization, over which the military has had virtually no influence. The text of the draft bill reasserts what is established in the Constitution—that is, Brazil essentially upholds a nuclear policy for peaceful purposes, and controls have been established so research may not be used to produce nuclear weapons (Article 2, Paragraph 5).

The main issue to be studied when discussing this draft bill is apparently simple, but it entails issues pertaining to Brazil's position on the international level: Should Brazil develop research in the nuclear energy field with the objective "of achieving independence in the nuclear field?" This is the question that must be answered. Depending on how it is answered, Brazil will be found among technologically developed countries, or it will

remain at the same level of scientific and industrial know-how as countries that have refused to accept the policies of the First World.

If the answer is yes, the path to obtaining independence in the nuclear field will be opened when Congress—fully aware of the impact it will have on Brazilian international relations—approves the national nuclear energy policy, the 10-year plan included in this bill, and particularly, the allotments that will allow us to achieve, in the short term, full control of the nuclear fuel cycle. Although the SAE will be the organization responsible for controlling Brazilian nuclear policy, this will be achieved only through the help of Congress and of civilian scientists, without whom nothing could be achieved today.

The nuclear policy of Collor de Mello's government does not deviate from the general lines of a policy that was established a long time ago, a policy that was the target of criticism (sometimes fair, sometimes exaggerated) in the wake of the secrecy surrounding it and the effort to give the program's most fruitful aspect a military character. These general lines can be summarized as follows: technological independence, research with peaceful goals, establishment of a close relationship between research and industrial development, full mastery of the fuel cycle, and the use of nuclear energy, as a complement, in the production of electric energy. The bill submitted to the legislative branch lists a number of other topics that could be called complementary, such as the application of new technologies in the fields of health, agriculture, and industry, the caution that will have to be exercised in order to protect the environment, etc.

There will be a certain amount of candor in the policy suggested to Congress by the president of the Republic if, in fact, an assumption is made that there will be technological cooperation with foreigners in this field. It will be very difficult—and the recent past is a sign of this—for the countries that have developed technologies for peaceful use of the atom to want to transfer them to Brazil, which has always been suspect for those who have always liked listing the countries that could build an atomic bomb in five years. It will be very difficult for such cooperation to take place even if all the Brazilian materials are under Argentine and international supervision conducted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

This reality, and not any xenophobia, is what led the bill's drafters to make repeated references to national industry when they outlined the objectives of the government's nuclear policy. It is appropriate to note that Item IV of Article 2 regulates Brazil's commercial relations with third countries, which will make industries viable.

If Congress decides to approve the national nuclear energy policy, it will take an important step in our country's technological training path. This will happen, we repeat, if our country wants this type of development and this path for development. If our country does not want it, the time

has come to clearly express our country's will so that later, the executive branch will not be accused of having motives that have never been and are not pursued by it, and so that it will not be charged with Brazil's possible scientific and technological backwardness.

#### **Document Urges Creation of New Defense Ministry**

PY2502231292 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE  
SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Feb 92 p 6

[Article by Joao Domingos]

[Text] Brasilia—A document, which was not authorized by the Armed Forces General Staff [EMFA], is circulating in garrisons. The document outlines a plan for the creation of a Defense Ministry that would gather the Army, Navy, and Aeronautics Ministries into a single ministry. The document, written by retired Colonel Edmirson Maranhao Pereira, former instructor at the Army Command and General Staff School, proposes that the three Armed Forces branches be placed under the control of the EMFA.

A profound reorganization of the Armed Forces would precede the creation of the new ministry. The EMFA would be transformed into the Armed Forces Command and all Army, Navy, and Air Force boards would be abolished. In the document, the colonel recalls a lecture given in 1952 in which Gois Monteiro predicted the need to unite the Armed Forces Command: "We did not create a national defense ministry for political-administrative coordination, although everything indicates that the natural development of things must lead us to adopt this form of centralized administration in the future."

In the document's preamble, the colonel states that the great military powers "have adopted the single ministry position." He adds that developing South American nations use a single ministry with a lesser or greater degree of integration.

#### **Antidrug Aspect of Cheney Visit Discussed**

PY2502210892 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE  
SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Feb 92 p 3

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "Cheney's Visit"]

[Text] If Brazilian politicians were concerned about truly important issues, the U.S. defense secretary's visit to Brasilia would be the subject of serious reflection within Congress and the executive branch, which ultimately are responsible for the national defense and security policy.

Dick Cheney did not visit Brasilia to look at its beautiful architecture; he came to work, with very clear objectives in mind. Whatever they may have been, it can be assumed by the level of his contacts in the Federal District—which included the president of the Republic, the acting foreign minister, and the military ministers—that they were related to security issues of U.S. interest.

The end of the Cold War, with the collapse of the USSR, evidently rules out the possibility that Cheney came to see about renewing the Brazilian-U.S. military agreement that former President Ernesto Geisel renounced. In a climate of almost complete relaxation, it would not make sense to try to recreate in Latin America the climate of ideological tension experienced during the fifties. U.S. strategic interests—that is, those interests that the White House, the Pentagon, and the U.S. Congress regard as related to U.S. national security—have already changed in some aspects; in others, they remain the same.

One of them is to avoid the stirring up of "turmoils" that may affect U.S. interests; another refers to the struggle against drug trafficking. It is quite likely that Cheney thought it a good idea to talk to the Brazilian military ministers about tighter cooperation, which may eventually result in the transfer of part of the Panama command to a more stable region, politically speaking. It is quite certain, however, that he also took care of discussing the drug trafficking problem that affects U.S. internal security and affects Washington's relations with many Latin American governments, either because their countries are drug producers or because, as in Brazil's case, they have easily become safe "connections" for the various "cartels." In other words, whether we like it or not, the drug trafficking problem is included in the Brazilian-U.S. agenda and, since it is an issue of national interest to the United States, it is regarded as an "important" issue by Washington.

The fact that Brazil has become an important "connection" in the international drug business cannot be treated by politicians and the responsible sectors of society as a matter of little importance. This problem currently affects Brazil's foreign relations and the safety of national ports, whether we like it or not. This subject affects us to such a degree that, according to press reports, shipping companies believe that drug traffickers—who, through threats and blackmail, load or unload their drugs on ships—are involved in the pillage of foreign ships that have sunk recently in Brazilian waters. No matter how right those in Brasilia are who believe that the fight against drug trafficking must be waged primarily by the consumer countries, to insist on this theory means avoiding an open, frank dialogue with U.S. authorities and virtually trying to cover the sun with one hand or to bury one's head in the sand as the ostrich does.

The U.S. position regarding Latin American governments has changed—for the best, it could be said, in the sense that they are more ready to understand susceptibility and good reasons—in the case of the Brazilian Armed Forces, for refusing to act as policemen in the struggle against drug trafficking. Moreover, it would be unreasonable for Washington to try to pressure Brazil to sign an agreement similar to the ones signed with Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia, which are obviously regarded as instruments allowing intervention in the internal affairs of the military forces of those countries—to the extent that the agreements are used to reorganize

their mission. Hopefully, in view of the news conference granted by Cheney in Brasilia, what the United States is allegedly seeking now is the acceptance of South American governments, especially the Brazilian Government, to establishing a cooperation that would only involve material support for police activities that would continue to be carried out by the Federal Police. The Federal Police would thus have better logistical support than is currently granted by the Armed Forces. To aspire to more than this would mean trying to radically change the Armed Forces' essential mission by involving them in activities that have nothing to do with them.

Cheney's visit marks the beginning of a new phase in Brazilian-U.S. relations, and it might have added another subject of disagreement between the two countries. This is why we have commented that, since the struggle against drug trafficking is an issue that affects U.S. national interests and since Brazil is an important "connection" in the world drug trade, the issue must be analyzed carefully, impartially, and, especially, from a realistic point of view, free of false patriotism or the possible predisposition to accept everything.

#### **'Solidarity' Group Says Cuban Executions 'Fair'**

*PY2102192092 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO  
in Portuguese 18 Feb 92 Section 2 p 8*

[Text] The Brazilians who went to Cuba on the Flight of Solidarity with Fidel Castro's communist regime returned to Brazil on 16 February. The Flight of Solidarity participants believed that the execution of Eduardo Diaz Betancourt and the death sentence for Luis Almeida Perez and Rene Salmeron Mendoza were fair. They added, however, that they were against the death penalty.

Upon their return to Brazil, most participants said the situation in Cuba is very bad. They believe, however, that Fidel's regime will hold on in spite of this. Journalist Eric Nepomuceno, the group's spokesman, said they sensed that the Cuban people were tired but not discouraged. Fidel Castro received the Brazilians twice.

The Flight of Solidarity was organized by the priest Beto [a Dominican priest well known for his support of Cuba] and Sao Paulo Education Secretary Fernando Morais. The flight left for Cuba on 7 February. The flight's participants are thinking about organizing another similar flight in the second half of the year.

#### **\* Speculation on Collor's Health Detailed**

*92SM0264A Sao Paulo FOLHA DE  
SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Feb 92 p 1-4*

[Text] Brasilia—President Fernando Collor de Mello let off some steam yesterday during a meeting held at Planalto Palace to discuss the Integrated Child Support Centers (CIAC's). He said that he felt "under siege" in Dinda House on weekends: by the press camped on his doorstep on one side and the waters of Lake Paranoa on the other.

Collor was in a bad mood. He said he was ready to give up on his personal public image rituals that he has created. Collor has already suspended the ceremonies of "climbing and descending the ramp," which used to take place on Tuesdays and Fridays.

He also informed those attending the meeting that he would no longer jog on Sundays.

During an interview at Dinda House about a year ago, when asked by a reporter whether the weekend siege by ordinary people and reporters did not bother him, President Collor answered unhesitatingly that he liked all the activity.

Before beginning the meeting, Collor had already been showing signs of irritation. He displayed impatience when photographers were a little slow in leaving the oval room on the third floor of Planalto Palace. The president lowered his head and shook it.

With the president in a bad mood, yesterday's meeting on the subject of CIAC's (see yesterday's report [not included]) was tense. One of Collor's main targets was the press. The president repeatedly expressed his displeasure with the press, which he accuses of engaging in speculation concerning his absence from Planalto Palace last Tuesday. Collor had spent the entire day at Dinda House.

The president did not comment on the rumors concerning the state of his health. Collor let off steam at various points in the meeting. All told, the president's complaints took up about 30 minutes of the meeting, which lasted two hours and 40 minutes. Those present simply listened. No one said a word in response to Collor's complaints.

For the purpose of shunning public appearances—a decision due officially to the desire to avoid routine—Collor has changed the way he goes to work. Instead of taking the helicopter to Planalto Palace, he flies to Alvorada Palace and then goes to Planalto by car. The difference is that by taking the car, the president enters through the garage without being seen and without giving the press a chance to approach him.

**President's Health: Facts, Speculations, and Spokesman's Version**

| Confirmed Facts                                                                                                                         | Spokesman's Version                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Collor has lost 12 kg. According to Alcení Guerra, he is following a low-calorie diet.                                                  | Collor lost seven kg and has gained back three and one-half kg. Alcení denied having provided that information to FOLHA DE SAO PAULO (Alcení confirmed the information on Wednesday). Alcení told the spokesman that the weight loss was due to physical exercise. |
| Physician Ulpio Miranda has been treating Collor.                                                                                       | Ulpio Miranda is not a cardiologist but a cancer specialist. He has not met with Collor for over six months.                                                                                                                                                       |
| Planalto Palace's ambulance has been replaced by one with intensive care equipment                                                      | There is no connection between the ambulance replacement and Collor's health.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Collor has not gone jogging for two Sundays and has suspended the ceremonies of climbing and descending the ramp                        | Claudio Humberto confirms this.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Collor did not go to work in the morning for two days over the past two weeks.                                                          | The statement is inaccurate, according to the spokesman. There were two days during the past two weeks when Collor did not go to work at Planalto Palace in the morning.                                                                                           |
| He stayed home on Wednesday.                                                                                                            | The spokesman confirms this.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Collor denied having AIDS in response to a question asked at his latest press conference.                                               | Claudio Humberto says he does not see the connection between that answer and the president's health.                                                                                                                                                               |
| Speculation:                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1. Collor is said to have been hospitalized at the Armed Forces Hospital or the Brasília Base Hospital.                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2. He is said to have been treated at a private hospital in the Federal District two months ago for a rapid heartbeat and dizzy spells. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 3. Collor is said to be taking tranquilizers and blood pressure medication.                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 4. Collor is said to be having frequent bouts of depression.                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 5. The military ministers are said to be apprehensive about the president's bouts of depression.                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 6. An intestinal infection—causing diarrhea and a loss of appetite—is said to be the reason for Collor's behavior.                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

**Claudio Humberto Denies Presidential Illness**

The spokesman for the Office of the President, Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva, contacted FOLHA DE SAO PAULO's reporters yesterday to deny information appearing in the box entitled "The President's Health" that was published on page 1-6 of yesterday's edition.

Irritated, Claudio Humberto said "it is not true" that President Fernando Collor de Mello has lost 12 kg.

He said that in the two-year period, Collor had lost seven kg but had gained back 3.5 kg. The spokesman also challenged information provided by former Minister of Health Alcení Guerra, who is a physician.

Alcení had told FOLHA DE SAO PAULO last Tuesday that the president was on a low-calorie diet and had stopped eating sugar and pasta. Claudio Humberto said that in a conversation with him, Alcení denied giving FOLHA DE SAO PAULO that information.

Last Wednesday—the day on which the information from Alcení was published for the first time—FOLHA DE SAO PAULO spoke to the former minister again, and he confirmed what he had said.

Claudio Humberto also challenged information concerning physician Ulpio Miranda. He said that Miranda was an oncologist (a cancer specialist), not a cardiologist. He also denied that Miranda was Collor's private physician and that he had been with the president at Dinda House.

"It has been over six months since Dr. Ulpio has met with the president personally," he said. Claudio Humberto said that the president was in very good health, "although that disappoints a few people who wish him ill."

The spokesman said he "preferred" journalism based on facts rather than that based on rumors. According to him, Collor was not irritated by the report. He said the president had a "capacity for tolerance."

According to Claudio Humberto, Collor put in an exhausting and busy day yesterday. He was unable to say how long Collor intended to refrain from climbing and descending the ramp.

Concerning the different routes Collor has been taking between Dinda House and Planalto Palace, the spokesman said it was a "periodic" change.

**\* Efforts To Form, Enlarge Congressional Blocs**

92SM0264B Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL  
in Portuguese 13 Feb 92 p 10

[Text] The administration's attempt to put together a secure base in Congress is not the only change in the National Congress that reconvenes this Monday. Threatened with the prospect of losing power in the federal legislative branch, the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] is attacking on two fronts: to increase its congressional bloc and form an alliance with other opposition parties.

At the invitation of Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho, the national president of the PT [Workers Party], Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, spent two hours at Bandeirantes Palace [the governor's office] yesterday. On the agenda was the alliance of opposition parties that an attempt is being made to put together in Congress.

"The entire action is in fact a reaction. We are reacting to the administration's bloc with our alliance," said the governor of Sao Paulo. "The result may be a larger unit which, in addition to the PMDB, the PT, the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], and the PDT [Democratic Workers' Party], will attract even those currently a part of the administration's bloc," the PT president said at the conclusion of the meeting.

During the talk with Lula, Fleury called the president of his own party, Orestes Quercia, and told him that the PT president would visit him to discuss the formation of the alliance. Quercia said last Monday that he was ruling out the possibility of an opposition front and that he would focus on expanding the PMDB's congressional bloc.

"There is no contradiction between the strategies laid down by Quercia and Fleury. They are attacking on two fronts," explains Deputy Luiz Carlos Santos (PMDB, Sao Paulo). According to the deputy's line of reasoning, Fleury's action is a response to the possibility that the PMDB will fail in its attempt to increase its bloc.

As the largest party in Congress during the 1991 legislature, the PMDB was not only the key party in all strategic votes but also had the prerogative of alternating with the administration's bloc in appointing rapporteurs and chairmen of the committees in the Chamber of Deputies.

With 101 deputies in the federal Chamber, the PMDB has become the third-largest force in the House. Ahead of it are the administration's bloc (consisting of the PRN [National Reconstruction Party], the PFL [Liberal Front Party], the PSC [Social Christian Party], and the PMN [National Mobilization Party]) with 123 votes and now (see below) the "independent" bloc (consisting of the PDS [Social Democratic Party], the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], the PL [Liberal Party], and the PDC [Christian Democratic Party]), which has 114 votes and whose support the federal administration is courting, for example, by appointing surgeon Adib Jatene minister of health.

"The alliance with the opposition parties is not an ideological issue but a practical necessity," Deputy Santos explained. "When the administration did not have the majority bloc, the PMDB imposed the pace it wanted on voting. The new makeup of forces compels the PMDB to seek alliances," commented the national president of the PT at the conclusion of his meeting with the governor of Sao Paulo.

If the opposition parties—the PMDB, PDT, PSDB, PT, PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party], PCdoB [Communist Party of Brazil], and PCB [Brazilian Communist Party]—are successful in forming their alliance, they will have a total of 240 votes. That will put them in a position

to try their strength against the other two blocs—the administration's bloc and the "independent" bloc—which have a total of 237 votes, excluding here the votes of the PTR [Renewal Labor Party] and the PRS [Social Reform Party], which lean sometimes toward the administration and sometimes toward the opposition.

But the PMDB is still working on the assumption that the administration will not be able to make the alliance between the two majority blocs secure, and that would make the party less committed to the other opposition parties. Fleury said: "It is during the legislative process that we will see whether the bloc is firm."

#### New Bloc Formally Established

The leaders of the PDS, PTB, PDC, and PL formally established a new congressional bloc yesterday. Called the independent bloc, it will be the second-largest bloc in Congress with 114 deputies. According to the four leaders—Victor Faccioni (PDS, Rio Grande do Sul), Gastone Righi (PTB, Sao Paulo), Eduardo Siqueira Campos (PDC, Tocantins), and Jones Santos Neves (PL, Rio de Janeiro)—it was he who spoke for the leadership yesterday—the new congressional group's objectives are to enlarge its space in the structure of the Chamber and thus guarantee, among other advantages, that it will have chairmen or rapporteurs on all of the Chamber's permanent and temporary committees during this legislative session.

Victor Faccioni said that the bloc would be "exactly what is meant by being independent, meaning that it will be neither unconditionally for nor unconditionally against the administration." The leaders pointed out that when the administration's bill increasing social security contributions was being voted on, the bloc had voted against it from the start. They thereby dismissed speculation that the purpose in uniting the four party blocs was to put them in a better position to negotiate with the administration for ministries or other important positions.

But even so, the leaders admitted that they would study the possibility of participating in the administration, pointing out, however, that the decision would be up to the party blocs. "No one is going to appoint a minister or accept a ministry without first discussing the matter with all the leaders of the bloc and with the party blocs. Nor will we accept positions which compromise the bloc's policy of independence," said PTB leader Gastone Righi.

The PMDB is the party most harmed by this new bloc, considering that with 101 deputies, it will drop to third place among the party forces. The bloc supporting the administration (PFL, PRN, and PSC) is still the majority with 122 deputies. But the PMDB will be able to reverse that picture easily if it reaches agreement with other opposition parties such as the PDT (46 deputies), the PSDB (39 deputies), and the PT (35 deputies). Even smaller parties such as the PSB with 11 members, the PCdoB with five, and the PCB with three may be able to shift the balance of power in the Chamber again. And even a party that has increased in size thanks to the

departure of PMDB deputies from Parana—the PST with seven members—may be attracted to an opposition front, thus canceling out the independent bloc's efforts.

**\* Fiuza Comments on Recent Cabinet Reform**

92SM0245A Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE  
SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Jan 92 p 5

[Interview with Ricardo Fiuza, new minister of social action, by AGENCIA ESTADO reporter Marta Salomon; place and date not given; first paragraph is O ESTADO introduction.]

[Text] Brasilia—The new minister of social action, Ricardo Fiuza, took office last Monday having made two commitments that would seem to be mutually exclusive in a municipal elections year. He promised to open the doors of the administration to politicians without making his ministry some sort of cathedral of pork-barrel politics. With one of the healthiest budgets of this year—20 trillion cruzeiros—available to invest in sanitation and affordable housing projects, Fiuza believes every legislator has a duty to request projects for his own region, and he promises to respond to whatever requests he gets. "I am a friend of the president, a hard-working and well-intentioned country boy," the new minister said. His nomination was the first sign that the administration is being taken over by the PFL [Liberal Front Party], a process consummated last week that tastes especially sweet to Fiuza. For two years he has been trying to convince the president to give the politicians a bigger role in the government. In this interview with reporter Marta Salomon of AGENCIA ESTADO, he says the Cabinet shakeup is not over yet.

[Salomon] Is it true, Minister, that one must give in order to receive?

[Fiuza] Of course. I see people in churches holding hands and singing that song. The reference is to giving love, understanding, and support.

[Salomon] And is this the meaning of the Cabinet shakeup?

[Fiuza] The president wants to show his appreciation for the Congress and the parties who support him. Obviously if we who are experienced politicians participate in the Cabinet and the decisions, things will be submitted to Congress in a more viable form.

[Salomon] Is the president investing in a solid base?

[Fiuza] The president wants to consolidate and broaden his base of support. He could have built whatever power base he wanted to a long time ago, using the instruments of government. But His Excellency wants that base to be united around principles, ideas, and made up of those who believe in a liberal-social program, in free enterprise, in the presence of the State in exactly the right proportion, a state that does not divert funds away from housing and education.

[Salomon] And, in practice?

[Fiuza] This will be an effective action, a continuing process of persuasion, of exchange of ideas. What was happening is that decisions were being discussed in the Executive Branch and measures sent to Congress without any consultation with the politicians, without first measuring the effect on the general public and the viability in Congress. Now we are going to politicize the government in the most modern sense of the word. We're not talking about what everyone says about St. Francis of Assisi. Someone who gives only in order to receive a favor in exchange usually betrays. That is not the right road.

[Salomon] And what about requests for funds, how will they be handled?

[Fiuza] A deputy asks for public works projects, which are funded by appropriations. What is he doing? He is fulfilling an obligation, a duty. We are going to try to take care of the demands by the deputies. Not only this ministry, but all ministries—and even the president—have an obligation to treat the congressmen well. We have to get rid, once and for all, of this obsession with confusing the legislative task with clientelism and electioneering.

[Salomon] You are taking over a ministry that controls the bulk of the appropriations for social projects. Will you influence the municipal elections?

[Fiuza] Every good project generates votes. That's politics.

[Salomon] Will there be enough money in 1992 to take care of everyone?

[Fiuza] Very little. But I think that if we act objectively and avoid waste, the funds will be sufficient to respond to most of the requests from the legislators, provided the requests are fair and technically well-substantiated. I am going to do things the way I did with the budget. I am not interested in who submitted the request. I will examine the suggested project. Where there is a need, we will try to satisfy it.

[Salomon] Why did the projects that the administration was working on not guarantee votes in favor of its bills?

[Fiuza] To figure that out, you have to be a politician. The kind of response legislators who submit requests get from a colleague who understands what is going on is different. A colleague will talk things out and explain when the appropriations have been exhausted.

[Salomon] How long does the government expect it to take to reverse its minority situation in Congress?

[Fiuza] Minister Jarbas Passarinho is the one who speaks for the administration. He's the political tactician. I will be able to help, because I'm a deputy as well as a minister.

[Salomon] Are you sure that opening up Cabinet posts to politicians will put the president in a more comfortable position vis a vis the Congress from now on?

[Fiuzza] He will certainly be in a more comfortable position. Getting a majority will be pretty difficult, but a solid group looks quite possible. And we are going to work to see that this power base is a stable one.

[Salomon] Is the PFL a government party now?

[Fiuzza] I imagine so. Since the president has given the party a vote of confidence by giving three of its members important ministerial portfolios, it is obvious that he thinks our party has some good men, and we must measure up to that expectation by participating, debating, differing. That will be easy because President Collor's program is very similar to our party's platform. It was an injustice not to recognize that.

[Salomon] In Thursday's vote on the increase in social security taxes, the PFL voted against the government. You and Social Security Minister Reinhold Stephanes had already taken office. Doesn't that contradict what you just said?

[Fiuzza] No. Before the changes in the Cabinet took place, we sent a note saying that we were against the increase in rates. The change of ministers made a proposed understanding viable, but the opposition took a more radical tack and snatched the bread out of the mouths of the retirees. The PFL was consistent.

[Salomon] Several PFL legislators say the Ministry of Infrastructure should be split up and that Minister Joao Santana should step down. Will that happen?

[Fiuzza] We told the president that a arrangement would have to be made at the ministerial and secretarial level, at the top echelon of the administration, and would even have to include parties that, although not part of the government bloc, support the president of the Republic.

[Salomon] Does this mean that people from the PDS [Social Democratic Party], PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], PDC [Christian Democratic Party], and PL [Liberal Party] will also be entering the cabinet?

[Fiuzza] I do not know what ministry, or what position. A solid political alliance must be forged. And in that case, it is obvious that the government must be administered with the collaboration of comrades from those other parties, provided they are capable and upright.

[Salomon] Did the PFL ask for Ministry Alcení Guerra's head?

[Fiuzza] No. The minister did a fantastic job, an absolute success. Unfortunately, some isolated incidents that didn't involve the least bit of bad faith on his part led to the most brutal media campaign against him that this country has ever seen. He got tired of people beating up on him, and asked to leave.

[Salomon] And what about Minister Margarida Procopio, your predecessor at Social Action?

[Fiuzza] What happened in this case is that standards and a style different than what I will use were employed. Diversion of funds did not occur. Minister Procopio played an immensely important role, and left the machinery in place and ready.

[Salomon] Did you come in to replace the so-called "Republic of Alagoas" with the "Republic of Pernambuco?"

[Fiuzza] Not that I'm prejudiced, but none of the bosses from the previous team are staying. I want to put my own stamp on the ministry, but there is no such thing as a Republic of Pernambuco.

[Salomon] Do you think it will be easy to control that machine?

[Fiuzza] That's what I consider an easy job. Transparency is all you need. But I warn people at the outset that anyone who strikes out at me unfairly will hear about it. So far there have been no improprieties.

#### \* Mercosur To Standardize Technical Regulations

92SM0264C Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL  
in Portuguese 13 Feb 92 p 9

[Article by Livia Ferrari: "Mercosur Will Have Harmonized Technical Standards"]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—By December 1994, which is when implementation of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) is to actually take place, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay will have to have their technical standards harmonized in the form of the so-called Mercosur Standard (NM). Adoption of the NM will mean replacing the national standards in each of the countries constituting Mercosur. This means that beginning in January 1995, products sold within the region will comply with the NM rather than with the standards in each of those countries.

According to Claudio Moreira, executive secretary of the Brazilian Association for Technical Standards (ABNT), the proposal calls for ensuring that the NM complies with international standards and procedures such as those established by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). This will provide Mercosur products with greater access to markets in third countries. The matter will be discussed in Montevideo from 9 to 11 March of this year during a meeting by Technical Subgroup 3 (SGT-3) of the Common Market Group (GMC) on "technical standards." SGT-3 consists of nine commissions, including those on industrial quality and standardization, whose membership includes the ABNT and Inmetro (National Institute of Metrology).

As part of the activities necessary for establishing the NM, the national standardization organization in each of Mercosur's member countries is to present a plan

seeking financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). It is also intended that the work of harmonizing standards will be coordinated by the Pan-American Commission on Technical Standardization (Copant) and that an agreement will be signed between Mercosur and the European Economic Community (EEC) to assist in those tasks.

The executive secretary of the ABNT feels that the SGT-3 standardization commission will have a full work agenda waiting for it. He says that of the four countries making up Mercosur, it is Brazil which is most developed in terms of standardization. The outstanding sectors in that respect are electro-electronics, iron and steel, engineering, civil engineering, and informatics. He also emphasized that the two first-named sectors, as well as the telecommunications, automotive, and toy industries, have already begun negotiations aimed at harmonizing Mercosur technical standards. Moreira believes that by 1994, the basic technical standards for those chief sectors will already be harmonized as the result of work which, in his opinion, will be continuous and permanent, considering that other industrial sectors will no doubt be added to the NM as the years pass.

#### Trade

The establishment of Mercosur resulted in increased trade among the four member countries even in 1991, and that trend is expected to continue in 1992. On 1 January of this year, the preference allowances for imports within Mercosur were automatically increased from 47 to 54 percent, thus reducing even further the cost of products sold within the region. According to the common tariff timetable, those preference allowances will be increased every six months. This means that further tariff adjustments will occur this coming 30 June, bringing the preference allowances up to 61 percent of the amount of the import duty. Under the same timetable, those allowances will rise gradually until they reach 100 percent (a zero import tariff) on 31 December 1994.

Statistics from the Technical Coordinating Office for Trade (CTIC) show that there was a 54.02-percent increase in Brazilian exports to the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) last year in comparison with 1990. This means that the ALADI countries accounted for 15.55 percent (\$5 billion) of Brazil's total exports (\$31.6 billion). In 1990, that share did not exceed 10.17 percent (\$3.2 billion).

Among the ALADI countries, Argentina showed the biggest increase in imports of Brazilian products (up 128.74 percent) for a total of \$1.7 billion, compared to the \$645 million recorded in 1990. Brazilian sales also rose in the Paraguayan market (up 29.1 percent at \$500 million) and the Uruguayan market (up 14.2 percent at \$337 million).

For the entire period from 1985 to 1990, the flow of trade between Brazil and the other Mercosur countries increased by 115 percent, bringing the total to \$3.6

billion, compared to the \$1.67 billion recorded in 1985 (that is, before the Brazil-Argentina Economic Integration and Complementarity Program was launched in 1986).

#### Chile

##### Torture Cases Included in UN Commission Talks

PY2602004892 Santiago EL MERCURIO  
in Spanish 12 Feb 92 p C4

[Article correspondent Alberto Dufey]

[Excerpt] Geneva—The Chilean delegation to the 48th UN Human Rights Commission session yesterday "regretted" accounts of the harassment in Chile of alleged terrorists, some of whom still have lawsuits pending, that were included in a report on torture presented by its special sponsor, Netherlander Peter Hooijmans.

The Chilean representative, Pedro Oyarce, also questioned a working group report on arbitrary detentions that also concerned prisoners involved in terrorist actions, some of whom still have lawsuits pending.

The Chilean representative regretted the fact that the report on torture did not include observations presented in the last General Assembly during which "Commission members praised the Chilean Government for its efforts to comply with the 1984 convention."

The special sponsor's report involves the current Chilean Government in a series of reports on the alleged torture of nine people during their detention by the Carabineros and the Investigative Police. [passage omitted]

##### Delegation Abstains on UN Resolutions on Israel

PY2502174492 Santiago EL MERCURIO  
in Spanish 15 Feb 92 p C2

[By correspondent Alberto Dufey]

[Excerpts] Geneva—During its first vote on 14 February as a member of the UN Human Rights Commission, the Chilean delegation abstained from condemning Israel through several resolutions that were approved by the Commission, on human rights violations in the Arab-occupied territories, including Palestine.

The Commission passed a series of resolutions condemning Israel's attitude toward Palestinians in the occupied territories. The United States was the only country to vote against them, while the European countries decided not to vote. The Chilean delegation headed by Ambassador Roberto Garretón did not explain the reason for its decision. One of the diplomats told EL MERCURIO that they were not authorized to make any statement. [passage omitted]

The Commission voted on four draft resolutions on human rights violations in the Arab-occupied territories,

which were approved by African, Arabic, Latin American, and Asian countries and Yugoslavia. Chile only supported the resolution on the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. This resolution was approved by a 45-0 vote. The United States abstained from casting its vote. [passage omitted]

The other resolutions not supported by Chile reaffirmed the Palestinian people's right to oppose the Israeli occupation through all the means established in the UN resolutions, and urged Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories and respect international law, human rights principles, and its commitments to the UN Charter and resolutions.

Another resolution disapproved by Chile "again harshly condemns Israel's refusal to observe the Fourth Geneva Agreement" and its policy "to torture arrested or imprisoned Palestinians and those held in Israeli concentration camps." [passage omitted]

#### **Argentina, Brazil Ask Support for Treaty Change**

PY2502223592 Santiago LA TERCERA DE  
LA HORA in Spanish 14 Feb 92 p 15

[Excerpt] Argentina and Brazil yesterday asked the Chilean Government to support the amendments that these two countries have presented for the Tlaltelolco Treaty, which seeks to ban nuclear weapons in Latin America, prior to their ratifying it.

This was reported by Argentine Ambassador to Chile Antonio Cafiero, who visited acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas in the company of Brazilian Charge d'Affaires Stelio Marcos Amarante. [passage omitted]

### **Colombia**

#### **Gaviria News Conference on Drug Trafficking**

PA2602001292 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras  
Caracol Network in Spanish 1324 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] On 25 February, Colombian President Cesar Gaviria held a 40 minute news conference in the presidential building, just prior to departing for San Antonio, Texas.

Colombian guerrillas do not have the support of either the people or the society. The strength of Colombian guerrillas is based on extortion, kidnappings, and drug trafficking. Colombian guerrillas are busy planting poppy and coca and are active in all kinds of criminal activities, Gaviria said. The president said his government and the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] are considering an alternate site for the peace talks, which could be held somewhere other than Caracas. He declined to give any reports in advance, however, saying that in such cases the government does not usually work on its own. If the decision is made to resume the peace talks at a site other than Caracas, the government and the CNGSB will make a

joint announcement. According to the president, the peace talks are being adversely affected by the CNGSB's armed actions. If the CNGSB fails to reduce the number and scope of its armed actions, it will be impossible to continue the process, he said. Nevertheless, the president said there is the faint hope that peace can still be attained.

Regarding Colombia's participation in the San Antonio drug summit, Gaviria said firmly that he will underline Colombia's gigantic and heroic struggle against drug trafficking. Colombian drug police are efficient. Referring to the possibility of applying a Rambo-style solution to the problem of drug trafficking, he said Colombia's problem could be one of intelligence, but never of action.

Gaviria said the Cartagena I and Cartagena II meetings will discuss money laundering and launderers, the multilateral struggle, and the formation of a ministerial commission of the countries attending the San Antonio summit. This commission will exchange information with the EEC, Japan, and Asian nations so that drug trafficking, one of mankind's greatest scourges, can be eliminated between now and the year 2010.

Some parliamentarians, who criticized the use of social emergencies to raise the public workers' salaries, have pointed out that the government could use the economic emergency, if the approval of the tax reform is delayed at the Congress. Asked about this, the president said the government cannot make announcements threatening to use the decision-making power authorized by the Constitution. He said only circumstances will determine whether or not this special power can be used to issue decrees with the force of law in case Congress delays the approval of the tax reform.

The president said flatly that the government is not considering the possibility of legalizing poppy crops in the country. The government's policy contemplates the eradication of such plants only. He said the legalization of such crops cannot be considered because there is a commitment to the international community to fight drug trafficking. He admitted part of society adopted an accommodating stand in the past when the cocaine trafficking started and the actions being taken now aim precisely at preventing a similar stand regarding the poppy cartels.

The president said that, although a great effort has been made in the struggle against drugs and 122 metric tons of cocaine have been seized in the past two years, much more than in previous years, much remains to be done regarding judicial cooperation, sharing information among countries suffering from this scourge, and sharing the assets confiscated from this illegal activity.

Colombia does not accept military aid. Some international media have reported that the United States could send agents to eradicate coca and poppy crops. The president said Colombia requires economic and, particularly, commercial aid. Just as the EEC did, Colombia

expects the United States to permit the entry of Colombian products into the U.S. market. He expressed the hope that Japan, another country affected by drug trafficking, can help increase the sales of Colombian products abroad. Gaviria said Colombia has received sufficient cooperation in the antidrug struggle because, he said, trade is much more important for Colombia than direct aid. This is why Gaviria feels satisfied with the tariff-free access of Colombian products to the European market and the access of a considerable number of Colombian products to the U.S. market.

He announced that on 25 February the text of the Vienna Convention will be taken to the Congress for ratification, if the Congress regards it as essential. This is a multilateral instrument that Colombia has been fulfilling and enforcing. The Colombian Congress is expected to ratify it, precisely as one of the most modern and courageous actions in the struggle against drug trafficking.

Asked whether the Colombian peoples' social problems could lead to a people's insurrection similar to the one that took place in Caracas three years ago, Gaviria replied that the country does have some problems, but the government has not caused them. On the contrary, the government is facing them to prevent this social unrest from becoming a public trauma. He said he does not think problems as great as those that occurred in other countries will take place in Colombia.

Asked about the measures taken regarding the U.S. dollar market, the president said similar measures have been taken in other Latin American countries and that the flow of money into Colombia is similar to the flow of money into Chile, Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Argentina. He said very strict measures are being taken to prevent money laundering in U.S. dollars and pesos, and the government will not hesitate to apply these measures.

#### **Government-Guerrilla Talks To Be Held in Mexico**

PA2602020392 Santa Fe de Bogota Inrvision  
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] The "24 Hours" newscast has learned that, should the dialogue continue between the government and the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, the talks will take place in Mexico.

This agreement was reached during the last radio contact between Peace Adviser Horacio Serpa and representatives of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the Army of National Liberation.

#### **Government, Power Workers Reach Agreement**

PA2102203192 Santa Fe de Bogota Inrvision  
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Report by Lucho Parra]

[Text] The government and power company workers have agreed to provide normal service throughout the

country. A few minutes ago the national government reached an agreement with the country's power company workers, who had been on strike for 15 days.

[Begin recording] [Parra] Mr. Miguel Ortega, president of Sintraelicol, can you explain the agreement reached with the national government?

[Ortega] The agreement consists of five points. First, beginning on 25 February, members of a government commission and Sintraelicol must discuss and decide labor stability issues for the workers. Second, we have the employer's substitution point (punto de substitution patronal). The third point identifies official and public employees in each of the companies; and fourth, we agreed on the right to information, which is a constitutional right. Finally, the labor union has promised to guarantee labor normalcy in each one of the country's power companies.

[Parra] Does this mean that the 24,000 workers who were on strike will return to their jobs?

[Ortega] The situation will return to normal, and we hope the agreements we have reached here will be fulfilled.

[Parra] Thank you very much, Mr. Miguel Ortega.

#### **Presidential Adviser Echeverri on Social Policy**

PA2202023992 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol  
Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Telephone interview with Gilberto Echeverri, presidential adviser for social policy, by unidentified reporter; place not given—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Recently, Gilberto Echeverri, the presidential adviser for social policy, was an important player in an important news event—the creation of the Advisory Board for Social Policy. This is why we have called him.

As of today, Mr. Gilberto Echeverri Mejia, what is the situation after the first few weeks that you have held this new post that President Cesar Gaviria created for you and the country?

[Echeverri] Good morning. Have you become a prosecutor?

[Reporter] No, sir.

[Echeverri] I have hardly arrived, and you are already asking for a report.

[Reporter] That is because we understand that the report is very good. For example, with regard to the reinsertion issue, the situation is quite clear.

[Echeverri] The president has assigned to me three tasks [words indistinct] which are to coordinate the National Rehabilitation Plan, the reinsertion policy, and the social policy you just mentioned.

I am quite clear about the reinsertion policy. I still have not selected the person to manage it because I want to have a leader of one of Colombia's corporations to work as head of it. I want him to get the private sector involved, because if we do not involve the private sector as much as possible, we will never achieve reinsertion. If we do not have a completely clear reinsertion policy, then we will not be able to offer tranquility to those who wish to return to civilian life.

[Reporter] Mr. Echeverri, I believe that the country is fairly aware of certain information and statistics about the failure of the reinsertion policy; the bankruptcy of the 19 April Movement [M-19] rebels' production projects; the noncompliance by the government; and so on. Having studied the entire problem, what do you think will be the future of reinsertion, in view of the negotiations that are taking place with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] in Caracas?

[Echeverri] What I want to do first is fix past problems. I prefer not to use the term failure. This is more like an experience, such as when we learn how to walk. I am sure you fell many times in Manizales and had bruised shins. That is what is happening to us and to the members of the groups that have accepted the civilian way of life. There has been success with some things, less success with others. We have also failed. First, however, we are going to correct past errors. I have the president's go-ahead to find the means.

[Reporter] What corrections would you make?

[Echeverri] I will assess the projects, one by one, as soon as I select the director of reinsertion. Those that do not seem viable—or if a banker were to examine them and say: Sorry, I will not give this project a loan—those we will replace with a new project. It is better to recognize that a given project did not work than to end up with a group of people who used to be guerrillas and have now returned to civilian life feeling deceived.

The system, the government—the Gaviria government or any other government before him—never thought of deceiving these people. If a project fails in a specific way, then we must try to find a correction. That is what we want to do.

[Reporter] Mr. Echeverri, with this same example, we must realize that the policy requires us to move quickly, but without running and then stumbling again. This is necessary because there have been many reports—as we saw on 20 February—of guerrillas taking to the hills again because they did not find an answer to their wish to return to normal society. In Antioquia, we have one case, and in Cordoba another, of members of the Popular Liberation Army taking up their weapons again.

[Echeverri] It is possible that some of the 3,150 guerrillas, who have registered for reentry from the four groups, may take up their weapons again. I would like to say, however, that it is impossible to invent projects

from one day to another. If it were as easy as that.... [pauses] A project needs to mature, even if it is small or medium-sized. Very positive answers are beginning to surface. You know Daniel Harry Hinestrosa, a very important person.

[Reporter] He is a banana farmer and an industrialist.

[Echeverri] He called me on 19 February and said: I want to contribute to the reinsertion process, so I am donating....

[Reporter, interrupts] Five hundred hectares.

[Echeverri] That is right, 500 hectares. The people from the Ministry of Agriculture are there, under orders from the president, surveying how the lots will be distributed. We do not want.... [pauses] You cannot just divide it with a ruler, as there are better lands for yucca and others for plantain. I believe that this example will be followed by many people in Colombia. The private sector has to make a commitment, and it wants to make a commitment. With the opportunity that you are granting me here, I believe I am sending a message to all of Colombia with this opportunity that you have given me today. Peace belongs to everyone. We cannot achieve peace by ourselves; neither can the guerrillas achieve peace with the government by leaving out the Armed Forces or the private sector.

[Reporter] You have dedicated part of your life to the private sector. Have you had any opportunity these past few weeks to contact industrialists or businessmen to motivate them and show them the benefits and to make peace everyone's effort?

[Echeverri] Of course, I have had splendid responses from leaders such as those in Popayan—which has been battered but is ready; the people of Cordoba, who have taken many blows from the violence; and the people in Antioquia or Valle del Cauca. In Valle del Cauca, the will and disposition of the people is incredible. One cannot imagine the will of the Colombian people to find a positive path.

[Reporter] Will you be going to Caracas with the delegation lead by Horacio Serpa?

[Echeverri] Yes, and I hope we can make some progress. Of course, these peace talks are not conducted with the timing of a football match on television. One must be very patient, since there are many environmental factors involved for the people participating in the talks. We are going with an open mind, a ready spirit, and the total support of the president to seek paths.

[Reporter] That, without getting desperate or expecting short term results, we believe?

[Echeverri] Indubitably. That is why I said that this is not like a football game on television, because time is so short. With regard to the time factor and what one of you journalists asked—I believe it was Beatriz [not further identified]—about what we were going to do with those who are leaving? Well, strangely, others are arriving. In

Uraba and the area near Cordoba, other guerrillas have asked to return and are coming in to find civility. I believe that being a guerrilla is tiresome and wearing; it drains you and makes you homesick. There comes a time when these men, who have dedicated their lives to fighting for an illusion, seek other things such as the warmth of a home, affection, and a family. These things are valuable, and we must strive toward them, so that all Colombians can have a home. Something like what there is in Medellin right now, where the people are out serenading again.

[Reporter] Mr. Echeverri, we are pleased to hear your calm and collected optimism, which is how we could describe your attitude toward the reinsertion issue for the success of the peace process in Colombia. Gilberto Echeverri, the presidential adviser for social policy.

#### **Ecopetrol Reports Oil Income Dropped in 1991**

PA2102151492 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 15 Feb 92 p 1-B

[Report by Alcibiades Bottia]

[Text] Colombia's oil revenues decreased \$308 million in 1991, over 222 billion pesos, primarily resulting from attacks on the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline. While there were other factors, this was the main one. The oil surplus balance in 1990 was \$1.017 billion and \$709 million in 1991.

These figures are stated in the first draft of the report on Colombian Petroleum Enterprise's (Ecopetrol) activities in 1991, considered a black year for the hydrocarbon industry. In 1990, Ecopetrol utilities revenues were 123 billion pesos. A similar amount is expected for 1991, but had Colombia been free of public order problems, Ecopetrol could have doubled its income.

National production averaged 425,560 barrels daily, as opposed to 439,530 barrels daily in 1990, a decrease of 4 percent. Global production decreased 5.1 million barrels, from 160.6 million barrels to 155.3 million. [as published]

Virtually the only thing that increased in 1991 was the number of partnership agreements, from 89 to 92. This was not satisfactorily reflected in the increase of reserves because Ecopetrol's direct exploration increases were only 33 million barrels, and the increase from new agreements was 25 million.

There are very attractive prospects, especially in the Cusiana field. Cusiana development plans allow us to forecast a radical change in the management of the economy, which will enable us to utilize these new resources without adversely affecting price stability.

Exploratory activity was discouraged by factors such as public order problems and repercussions from the Gulf war.

#### **Imports and Exports**

Oil exports dropped by 5.7 percent, going from 67.9 million [barrels] in 1990 to 62.2 million in 1991. The sales were worth \$1.316 billion on the international market in 1990 as opposed to 964 million in 1991. Gasoline imports during this same period amounted to 9.6 million 55-gallon barrels at a cost of \$255 million. In 1990, these imports were in the amount of 10.6 million barrels worth \$290 million.

In 1991 the country was forced to import other oil by-products at an approximate cost of \$43 million.

In response to 1991's figures, the government was forced to cut spending on social infrastructure projects, such as highways in oil zones, aqueducts, and sewage systems.

Planning chief Armando Montenegro said that, because of terrorist activities, economic growth declined by almost half a point.

#### **Paraguay**

#### **Rodriguez Calls Brazil Summit 'Positive'**

PY2202134292 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 22 Feb 92 p 8

[Excerpts] Upon his return yesterday from Canela (Brazil), President Andres Rodriguez said that the "summit" of Southern Cone presidents yielded "very positive results" not only for our country, but for the entire world, because all world leaders are concerned with preserving the environment. [passage omitted]

During the "summit" held on 20 February in Rio Grande do Sul State, Rodriguez urged the international community to adopt the principle of "shared responsibility" in the quest for solutions to environmental problems and to establish "new systems for technical-financial cooperation for the implementation of programs designed to conserve natural resources."

Rodriguez also endorsed a Uruguayan proposal to establish international sanctions to punish environmental violations, but he noted that before establishing these sanctions the developed countries first must be required to adopt a system of "compensations" to Third World countries, so that the latter may be able to preserve their environment.

He added that our development model—which is based on agriculture, livestock, and forestal exploitation—is somehow out of keeping with environmental conservation because Paraguayan farmers are forced to destroy forests in order to survive. [passage omitted]

**Internal Debt to Central Bank \$321 Million**

PY2102193692 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish  
15 Feb 92 p 12

[Summary] The debt of the Paraguayan public sector and some decentralized organizations to the Paraguayan Central Bank [BCP] on 31 December 1991 totalled 458.910 billion guaranies (\$321 million). This debt represents more than 50 percent of what the Finance Ministry will collect in taxes in 1992. The main debtors are: The National Cement Industry [INC], which owes the BCP 177.837 billion guaranies; the National Development Bank, which owes 79.737 billion guaranies; and ACEPAR [Paraguayan Steel, Inc]/SIDEPAR [former Paraguayan Steel, Inc., which already has been dismantled] with 49.884 billion guaranies, 35.632 billion of which are overdue.

The debt of the ministries are: The Finance Ministry owes 61.990 billion guaranies; the Public Health Ministry 7.921 billion; the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry 6.534 billion; and the Industry and Trade Ministry 1.211 billion.

The state-owned enterprises that have the largest debts to the BCP: LAP [Paraguayan Air Lines]; FLOMERES [State Merchant Fleet]; INC; APAL [Paraguayan Alcohol Administration]; and ACEPAR owe the BCP more than 6 billion guaranies each. LATN [National Air Transport Company, merged into LAP], CORPOSANA [Water and Sanitation Corporation], and ANDE [National Electric Power Administration] are the only ones that owe less than 150 million guaranies to the BCP.

**Peru****Fujimori Discusses Government Program**

PY2502000092 La Paz Television Boliviana  
Network in Spanish 0110 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Interview with President Alberto Fujimori by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] [Fujimori] ...always to \$1.50. From 6 cents to \$1.50 is 25 times the amount. But all this has been implemented through a package of measures that the people have acknowledged with great calmness and stoicism. As you can see, they continue to support the government.

[Reporter] In the beginning nobody was quite sure what the ideology or government program of Change 90 was all about. Would you say that, from an economic viewpoint, you are a neoliberal president—a definition that many Latin American presidents dislike?

[Fujimori] We cannot describe ourselves as such. What we are doing is implementing extremely pragmatic measures to gradually overcome the various problems that lie ahead of us. What I always stated during the electoral

campaign was the need to establish a market economy, which, moreover, is established by the Peruvian Constitution. This is what I have done during the past 18 months. I have sought the people's participation in the market.

[Reporter] Some sectors of the Peruvian media criticize President Fujimori for adopting what they term an authoritarian position. This position is allegedly reflected, for example, in the legislative decrees that have been issued—the president of a democratic system who, nevertheless, conducts his basic government policy without the participation of the legislative branch using the powers granted to it by the government itself. Can we talk about authoritarianism? Do you not think President Fujimori's true problem is that he lacks a partisan structure that decidedly backs him, such as, for example, the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance]?

[Fujimori] The truth is that we do not have a partisan structure. The people, who are not organized in the form of a political party, support the government measures. We do not have a partisan style nor the support of our own representatives in Congress. In the case of the powers granted to the Presidency, however, they have been used to their full extent within the framework of the Constitution in order to be able to implement the deep-rooted changes that the country requires and have been subject to debate. Despite these debates, most legislative decrees continue to be implemented. Therefore, there is no reason to talk about authoritarianism. The words authoritarianism or militarism may also be used with regard to the subject of pacification. But, here again it is not true. In this sense there has been a misconception. What is true is that the president of the Republic exercises his duties with authority. It is quite obvious that there is no power vacuum. The authority fully exercises his authority, but this can hardly be called authoritarianism. Another fact is the marked difference between the past and current administration.

[Reporter] For the man on the street another key issue of an economic policy such as the one implemented in Peru, such as the one implemented in Bolivia and other Latin American countries is its well-known social cost. It cannot be denied—because poll results show that it is so—that President Fujimori enjoys significant support from the people. What you have just said is true, probably because the situation before you came to power was very different. But what is Fujimori's government doing to cushion the social cost that is obvious in some Peruvian towns and villages, where there is significant poverty, where the social indicators are highly worrisome, and where they have problems such as cholera, which exists in other countries, but has had a greater impact in Peru. In other words, the social challenge is great—what are you planning to do to face this challenge?

[Fujimori] During the past 18 months our answer to this challenge has been partial. The emergency program has lacked the necessary resources despite very good intentions within Peru and abroad. These resources have been

very scarce; for example, we had planned to spend \$250 million during the first six months, but we did not even spend half this amount. The truth is that in the beginning, we really did not have any resources at all; however, there have been channels of support for the people from the public and private sector. This support is reflected in the increase of foodstuff supply, which has been massive. In 1991 food donations amounted to approximately 500,000 tons. This represents one-third of the total amount of grain imported by Peru.

[Reporter] In Bolivia's case, we have almost become addicted to food donations. What do think about a country's dependency on food donations?

[Fujimori] I share your concern. Therefore, we hope that the Compensation and Social Development Fund [Fondo de Compensacion y Desarrollo Social] will, more than anything, generate job opportunities. As the program develops we hope labor will be compensated with food, and that in the future, it will just generate more job opportunities so people can become self-sufficient. Nevertheless, the social emergency program is very important. We hope to give it impetus and the necessary resources this year.

[Reporter] Mr. President, we are all aware of your successor's policy regarding the IMF and, consequently, the financial system. Peru was almost regarded as a bad word in the international financial world due to President Alan Garcia's inflexible position. We understand that Peru has changed its position and that you have managed to reopen the doors of the international financial system, which is vital, not only for your country, but for any developing country. What is the current status of that international relationship?

[Fujimori] These relations have completely returned to normal. The truth is that it has been a very hard, arduous job to normalize our relations in approximately one year—especially because Peru owed the three international organizations some \$2.3 billion. This is not the full debt, only the arrears. Our exports, at the most, amount to \$3 billion. We have had to renegotiate this debt and, luckily, we have had the support of several friendly countries and have managed to, quote, normalize, unquote, the arrears. Now that we have overcome this problem we have started to obtain significant credit, such as that granted by the IDB a month ago, amounting to \$210 million, which will allow us to repair important Peruvian highways. We have also obtained credit for the Andean Development Fund amounting to \$500 million to finance various projects. In sum, we have started to receive an interesting inflow of international credits as well as the financial aid of the cooperating supportive countries. In this sense, our situation is improving constantly.

[Reporter] I would like to ask you two questions within this context. Has Peru had to make many concessions to achieve these agreements and what percentage of the exports are earmarked annually to service the foreign debt?

[Fujimori] I do not have the figures to answer your last question, but it is bearable. Negotiations have been very favorable for Peru. I repeat, the results obtained with the three international organizations, obviously tied to a reference economic program that is currently in force, have been very favorable. We have also managed an exceptional renegotiation with the member countries of the Paris Club because it entails an eight to 10 year grace period. In other words, amortizations will start in the year 2000, which is very favorable.

[Reporter] Any international relationship, especially with the financial system, must include a great nation—that is, the United States. Peru's relationship, as well as Bolivia's, is deeply questioned or, better said, conditioned to the struggle against drug trafficking. The Andean region countries have become a priority issue for the United States. You never know whether this is an advantage or disadvantage. Bolivia, not just now during President Jaime Paz Zamora's administration, but also during Victor Paz Estenssoro's government, has upheld the alternative development theory, which President Paz Zamora calls Coca for Development. What is Peru's position in its negotiations with the United States with regard to militarization of the struggle against drug trafficking, which entails the Army's participation in this struggle? In Bolivia, this issue has stirred up a great polemic because the Bolivian Government accepted this proposal. What does the coca eradication policy represent? How does Peru view this relationship as a whole?

[Fujimori] There has been a complete change with regard to the participation of the Armed Forces in the coca-growing areas. There has been a change of strategy. We do not regard the peasant coca growers as part of the drug trafficking chain but rather as needy farmers who have been forced to engage in this activity and are exploited by the drug traffickers. Our strategy now, and this goes for the Armed Forces and police, is not to repress these farmers, but rather to obtain their support. In this sense, I hope the change of economic activities in the zone—replacing coca with other plantations—will be carried out in a very peaceful manner and not just through repressive methods. Repression, naturally, will be used against those who market and process cocaine. In other words, our struggle is focused on cocaine, but not on coca growers, the people who grow coca leaves. This is why the presence of military officers will not worsen the problem, quite the contrary.

[Reporter] Have you signed any agreement with the United States on the participation of the Armed Forces in this struggle?

[Fujimori] The truth is that the Armed Forces were present in those areas before the agreement was signed.

[Reporter] Linked to terrorism more than to counternarcotics, or to both?

[Fujimori] Both. Drug trafficking and terrorism in those areas are strongly linked.

[Reporter] Is it possible to replace coca plantations with other products, which can hardly compete with coca in price due to its characteristics?

[Fujimori] Technically, it is possible due to the exceptional weather and soil in the coca-growing areas. Moreover, the price of raw materials, such as coca, has dropped significantly. There are other very profitable plantations. The problem with the substitution programs is that many times we do not have buyers for the alternative plantations. Therefore, one of the key issues, in addition to establishing a market economy in the coca-growing regions, is to find buyers abroad. This is why we are seeking the participation of multinational enterprises, some of which are already in contact with the government, so they can become part of this new mechanism.

[Reporter] Has the United States raised the issue of extradition with Peru?

[Fujimori] No, but it is possible. If we were to arrest a drug trafficker and the United States requested his extradition, we would be willing to comply.

[Reporter] What will Peru propose during the upcoming presidential summit on drug trafficking?

[Fujimori] I think the United States and the Andean Group member countries agree that this substitution program has developed peacefully and progressed and that repression must only be used against drug traffickers. I am sure Peru and the other countries will require more financial aid, not only from the United States but also from the international community. All our countries also agree that this is not a national issue, but an international issue.

[Reporter] Would you say that the Peruvian policy to fight drug trafficking and coca growers is similar to the Bolivian policy?

[Fujimori] It is similar in general terms. I am not well acquainted with the Bolivian program, but as far as my country is concerned, there has been a radical change. We are not struggling against a population of 250,000 coca growers, but rather trying to obtain their support.

[Reporter] In Bolivia, coca producers are organized in labor unions; in other words, a political force that has a significant representation to negotiate with the government. It is not easy to reach agreements, however, because we are not talking about the coca growers in general, but about an organized structure. Is it the same in Peru?

[Fujimori] No. They lack that sort of representation. They are organized, however, in committees that, in our opinion, are the coca growers' valid representatives. Maybe they will have greater representation in the future.

[Reporter] Earlier, you mentioned the strong link between terrorists and drug traffickers. Looking at Peru

from abroad and at the time of your inauguration, the world believed President Fujimori would have to fight hyperinflation, on one hand, and terrorism, on the other. Which was the priority issue? Which of the two problems did President Fujimori believe had to be tackled first and, within this context, what is your diagnosis of terrorism in Peru today?

[Fujimori] Well, we obviously first had to face the problem for which we had solutions at hand; that is, the economic problem. With hyperinflation, such as the one we had 18 months ago, it was impossible to develop any political or social program. Hyperinflation continued to generate poverty and general dissatisfaction. Therefore, this was the first problem we tackled, without neglecting the other problem, which is a medium-term issue on which we have been working hard, with a lot of patience and strategy. It is beginning to yield results. On several occasions I have said that the country will be completely pacified by the end of my administration.

[Reporter] How are your relations with the Armed Forces?

[Fujimori] We have an excellent relationship.

[Reporter] Someone said—and you even mentioned it when I talked to you about authoritarianism—that some elements of the antiterrorist policy, the Peasant Defense Patrols, and even your government's theory that violence must be repelled with violence might generate a never-ending chain of violence.

[Fujimori] In practice it has been proven that self-defense is generating greater safety and eliminating violence in many zones. In the rural area, for example, great progress has been made due to the participation of the people. I believe that the steps that have been taken, as part of our strategy that is being astutely implemented, will allow us to gradually defeat terrorism. The terrorists' political and physical space is getting smaller.

[Reporter] In other Latin American and even European countries, the wear-and-tear suffered by the violent process itself has led to a negotiation process. El Salvador, for example, a few weeks ago fortunately took that path. For the government the Peruvian situation is obviously more complex because terrorism does not even suggest the possibility of negotiating. This is an all-out war in which you either kill or die. Does this mean that violence in Peru can only be eradicated by wiping out terrorism without negotiations?

[Fujimori] Naturally. When it refers to terrorism such as the type practiced by the Shining Path or radical groups of the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement], there is no other alternative but for the society to struggle against these groups. But it is not a matter of annihilating them or confronting them with the Armed Forces. We are not doing this but rather getting society to participate in this struggle against terrorism. At the same time this method, with the Armed Forces' support, is allowing us to recover that political space that will again be occupied

by government or civilian political organizations. In other words, it is an integrated scheme that allows us to gradually defeat terrorism. Dialogue, in this case, is unfeasible. Taking into account the criminal acts being perpetrated by these two groups, one could hardly engage in a dialogue with them.

[Reporter] Does this imply—my question is almost a statement—that the role played by the Armed Forces in this war has changed almost radically? In the past, and this is also a matter of concern in other parts of the world, the Armed Forces' presence in a critical zone of conflict contributes to their deterioration and also allows for abuses that discredit the Armed Forces. What degree of direct participation do the Armed Forces have in the struggle against terrorism? As you just said, the Armed Forces are an element of the civilian society's struggle.

[Fujimori] That is the case. The Armed Forces' presence does not have a strictly military purpose. Their presence seeks rather to back the actions carried out by the rural or urban communities. Therefore, the Armed Forces, in many places, act as representatives of the government that is acting on various fronts. They not only grant military guarantees but also act as representatives of the Transportation Ministry because they build highways or of the Education Ministry because they build schools, and so forth. Therefore, this link, this coordination, this strongly interrelated work carried out by the state—which in the case of the emergency zones has to be carried out by the Armed Forces and the people—is what allows us to do this job.

[Reporter] Talking about another subject, how is your relationship with the media, with the journalists in Peru?

[Fujimori] There is an absolute freedom of expression in Peru. Therefore, there is freedom to criticize. I have absolutely no ties with any segment of the media. I must say that right now they are being objective, with the exception of some sectors, of course. But they enjoy full freedom to work.

[Reporter] Do some headlines or sarcastic remarks published in Peruvian magazines or newspapers upset you?

[Fujimori] By no means. They amuse me with their jokes and cartoons.

[Reporter] Would you like to see your wife actively involved in politics now that it seems she is preparing to run for the November municipal elections in Lima?

[Fujimori] I think it is still too early to think of that. Running for the presidency of the Republic took months of planning. I still had not thought about the idea and my wife took me a bit by surprise.

[Reporter] Has she not decided yet?

[Fujimori] Not yet.

[Reporter] Will this decision be made by the president of the Republic or your wife?

[Fujimori] No. That will be her decision because I believe women are fully autonomous; they must not depend on their husbands even if he is president of the Republic.

[Reporter] Let us talk about a subject that is deeply cherished by Bolivia and that has had a great impact on our society since your meeting with President Jaime Paz Zamora on 24 January. Before referring to this subject, however, I would like to place your presidency within the context of international relations. You chose to confront two huge fronts almost simultaneously. The most sensitive issue for you is the one involving Ecuador, which almost caused another tsunami in Quito. The Ecuadoran opposition seems to be awakening, but it is skeptical about the Peruvian proposal. Was there any connection or desire to link the two issues? The Peruvian media maintains that President Fujimori wanted the people in Quito to learn about what was happening in Ilo and that Paz Zamora wanted the people in Santiago to learn about what was happening in Ilo.

[Fujimori] I am only interested in the subject of integration—nothing else. I think it is absurd for Peru and Ecuador or Bolivia and Chile to maintain ancient differences that can be solved. This is why I went to Quito, as you know. It is quite likely that the political leaders are still skeptical, but the Ecuadoran and Peruvian people want peace, and this peace is feasible because there are no elements that divide us completely. The same goes for the other neighboring countries. I also hope that we will be able to maintain a closer relationship, free of any shadows, with Chile.

[Reporter] What historical meaning does a pragmatic person like you give the problem that has separated Ecuador and Peru and the Arica case, a still unhealed wound between Peru and Chile? How do you solve these problems without linking them to history or overlooking history?

[Fujimori] Obviously, we must think of the past, but history teaches us that we were a single country. Circumstances led us to split, but we can regain the unity we shared through integration. This is what we are striving for. I would like this integration to be carried out pragmatically, through deeds and not more rhetoric.

[Reporter] The Ilo meeting revolved around a greater issue: the Andean Pact. During the Andean Pact meeting in La Paz, Ecuador announced that it was not very happy with the proposal to eliminate all customs tariffs, which, in turn, would allow economic integration. During the last meeting in Cartagena, you also chose to wait. Why has a country like Peru, with an open economy, decided not to immediately eliminate customs tariffs and, paradoxically, Bolivia, the weakest country in the Andean Pact, has adopted the position of the strongest countries, such as Colombia and Venezuela, to eliminate customs taxes?

[Fujimori] Well, that is not exactly the case. I want to point out that countries such as Bolivia and Peru have adopted

measures eliminating the distortion of foreign trade. What I mean is that they have eliminated any kind of subsidy; however, other Andean Pact member countries still maintain this protectionist tendency, which is applied in practice and is reflected in the advantages that subsidized products have. This is why we have stated that all countries must join the process under the same conditions so integration can be fair, real, and solid. We have been working on this issue. This is why we have chosen a six-month period, in the hope that during this period, this year—not that Peru, Bolivia, or Ecuador are going to be reorganized or take a break during this time, quite the contrary—the other countries will also adopt measures, that will probably be harsh, to eliminate subsidies and other advantageous protectionist measures.

[Reporter] Does this mean that once these six months are up, this waiting period will be reviewed and probably extended?

[Fujimori] I hope we will not have to hinder the integration process any more. Unfortunately, the [word indistinct] very common could not be implemented as established in the Barahona agreement, due to the great disagreement that exists. We want this subject to be handled from the technical viewpoint. The Andean board has proposed a list of rules on customs tariffs, which are closer to our position on this issue.

[Reporter] Do you agree with some experts who maintain that historically speaking, the Andean Pact is obsolete, that it missed its chance in history, and that the integration process—the Common Market of the South, for example—will replace the Andean Pact, or do you think this group still has an objective chance to grow?

[Fujimori] I think we are still in time. We have wasted a lot of time, a full two decades without making any significant progress. But, the wasted time must be recovered with hard work. I think we are still in time, and that we have not lost the opportunity.

[Reporter] When did President Fujimori think of Ilo?

[Fujimori] I thought of it even before beginning the electoral campaign. I also mentioned to President Paz Zamora that I would like to take some important steps in Bolivia's favor. Our officials began to work on the issue, but I wanted to give it a special touch. Finally, some three or four days before full completion of the project, we realized that there was a free port, a free zone, the corridor, etc., but no beach. We then wondered: Where is the beach; where is the sea for the Bolivians? I asked: Please establish a five-kilometer beach. Initially, it was a four-kilometer beach, but after a telephone conversation with your president, I pleasantly agreed to a five-kilometer beach. The Foreign Ministry and the ministers of industry, integration, and the foreign minister, himself, had to work intensively the final two days to make this way of welcoming Bolivia to the Pacific Ocean a reality. [Words indistinct], however, that it is not limited to five kilometers.

[Reporter] How did Boliviamar occur to you?

[Fujimori] I discussed it over the phone with President Paz Zamora. We thought of several names, and I finally asked him to choose the name himself. Two hours later, he called me and suggested Boliviamar. I accepted it immediately.

[Reporter] You know very well that to make an agreement positive, to make it yield results and be more than mere rhetoric, its practical results must be discussed. How will Peru benefit from the offer it made to Bolivia? The benefits for Bolivia are tangible, but how will Peru benefit?

[Fujimori] The benefits are mutual; we cannot think of them unilaterally. When I made this decision, I was aware of these benefits: The whole southern part of Peru will be economically reactivated. Above all, however, there will be integration between southern Peru and your country. I believe this is one of the most important objectives. I was pleased to learn that tomorrow a group of 100 Bolivian Boy Scouts will visit the Ilo beach with First Lady Rosario de Paz. They are welcome.

[Reporter] A hostel for children is also being projected.

[Fujimori] Yes, First Lady Rosario and my wife are planning it.

[Reporter] Regarding criticism of your meeting with President Paz Zamora, I mentioned this point to President Paz Zamora when I asked him a question in Ilo Port: Is not the slogan, Bolivia Returns to the Sea, an exaggeration? Are not the two presidents making a theatrical presentation of an important step that might have been taken by our two foreign ministries?

[Fujimori] I believe there is not much difference between the symbolism and reality. The concessions and agreements are tangible. The beach and the free zone are realities. And I expect them to develop further. At least this is Peru's intention. I do not believe there has been exaggeration. I sometimes believe the historic meaning of the fact has yet to be analyzed, its full impact is greater than the concession of a free port and a beach. This is the first important step, and it will have an immense influence on our future relations and on Latin America in general.

[Reporter] The objective of Ilo Port and its success include more than merely linking La Paz to Ilo Port and, as a result, Bolivia to Ilo Port. It includes linking Ilo to the Atlantic Ocean through Puerto Suarez and maybe later on, Puerto Busch. It includes connecting Ilo Port to the Bolivian border that links us to the waterway going south to the Atlantic Ocean. This connection includes highways that, on the Bolivian side, are apparently financed. You have mentioned this topic a few times, but I would like you to explain it clearly. It is true that Peru has not yet obtained loans for this and is requesting

them? Is this an important priority within the framework of the highway program to be implemented by President Fujimori?

[Fujimori] Yes, it is. Personally, I did not want to announce it because I like to do things first and then talk about them. We are silently working to finish this highway as soon as possible.

[Reporter] Do you believe this highway could include Tacna, or will it follow the original project, linking only La Paz to Ilo? We met a Tacna delegation in Ilo who pointed out that Tacna's significance could not be overlooked, mostly because Tacna is more important than Ilo.

[Fujimori] There are two alternatives: one is the Tacna-Colpa-La Paz highway that is being worked on, and several good secondary roads have already been opened. I have personally visited them. The other alternative is the Ilo-Mazo Cruz-Desaguero highway, which is the shortest. This does not mean, however, that there will not be a paved road connecting Ilo to Tacna. We are working on that also. Ilo and Tacna, therefore, are a common regional center for us.

[Reporter] What will happen to Matarani if Ilo becomes the Bolivian export port? Could Matarani die? Would it create rivalry in southern Peru?

[Fujimori] Matarani has become very important for Bolivian foreign trade, and you know that very well. We also have a development project for the Matarani-Mollendo region, and this is obviously closely linked to improving the railway and highway net serving Matarani. Obviously, neither Matarani nor Ilo can become isolated. I foresee that Bolivian or Peruvian trade with the Pacific basin countries will increase so much that both ports will become necessary.

[Reporter] From a realistic point of view, how long do you believe it will take for Ilo to become an economic reality in Peruvian exchange with Bolivia? [Fujimori] Well, this will depend on the Peruvian and Bolivian businessmen. I believe, however, that it will become a reality in the short term. We will give it all the attention it deserves.

[Reporter] Do you agree with President Paz Zamora that the northern Chilean cities of Arica and Iquique are concerned about the Peruvian-Bolivian accord?

[Fujimori] Well, Ilo will undoubtedly become an important competitor.

[Reporter] Will you discuss this topic with President Aylwin during your upcoming meeting?

[Fujimori] We will discuss several topics. Our main concern is to keep our relations as cordial as possible for the benefit of our peoples.

[Reporter] I would like to end this interview by asking you two questions linked to history. We have been commenting on the bicentennial of Marshal Andres de

Santa Cruz [Bolivian-born military chief who was Peruvian president 1826-1827] of [word indistinct]. What does Marshal Andres de Santa Cruz mean to Alberto Fujimori?

[Fujimori] He is a personality who closely links Peru and Bolivia historically. This is why we named the Ilo declaration after him.

[Reporter] Do you believe Marshal Santa Cruz was a president who placed himself beyond passions for or against Peru, although he did invade Bolivia? What is your opinion of this man who is so controversial in both countries?

[Fujimori] I believe these appraisals are subjective. Great Marshal Santa Cruz' objective was to unite the two countries.

[Reporter] How will Peru celebrate the 200th anniversary of Santa Cruz' birth in December.

[Fujimori] There will be some formal celebrations, but we hope an agreement between Peru and Bolivia may become a more tangible achievement in Peruvian and Bolivian development.

[Reporter] Does President Fujimori like to be in office?

[Fujimori] I must tell you that I am very comfortable in the presidency of the Republic, because all the dreams I had about changing Peru from a developing country to a developed one can only be achieved through the presidency. I am very optimistic. I will not be able to achieve all that in five short years, but huge steps toward development will be taken. This is why I am very happy about becoming a politician. I modestly believe that I was not wrong to do so.

[Reporter] Now that you have to solve the problems of a country in crisis, do you still believe you will be able to make these optimistic dreams come true?

[Fujimori] Well, reality has made me understand that they are much more feasible than they seemed. I am used to adopting pragmatic positions; I feel that my dreams can become a reality because I have the support of the Peruvian people, and I believe this is fundamental. Peruvian problems have been—and still are—very difficult, very complex. Obviously, we have not overcome these problems, but we are advancing toward their solution. I am completely certain that the measures we have been adopting and implementing will lead us to a very safe port.

[Reporter] You still have three and a half years to make the dreams that made you unexpectedly obtain the presidency become a reality. In the first one and a half years, you have proven that many of these dreams can become reality and that many others can also become reality. Your point of view is different from that of other politicians. It is the point of view of someone who has no political experience, but who possesses a strength resulting from pragmatism and a firmness that has

established achieving economic stability as a number one priority. Of the tigers we discussed previously, economic stability is one of the most difficult ones to defeat.

The presence of President Fujimori in the Peruvian Government has been fundamental for good relations between Bolivia and Peru. The agreement signed on 24 January probably would not have been possible if you were not the Peruvian president. Naturally, President Paz Zamora's presence in the Bolivian presidency was also important. However, unity between our two countries has a name: Marshal Andres de Santa Cruz. This is why I chose to end this interview by mentioning the man historically united two countries that had been united for thousands of years.

Thank you very much, Mr. President, for granting me your time. This interview will allow a rapprochement by Bolivians not only with President Fujimori, but also with the Peruvian people. Thank you very much and good night.

[Fujimori] Thank you for this opportunity, and I hope to be in Bolivia very soon. Good night.

### Venezuela

#### Opposition Parties Not To Participate in Cabinet

PA2502145592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Eduardo Fernandez, secretary general of the Social Christian Party [COPEI], reported that the party's National Directorate Operations Committee unanimously decided on 25 February that the party will not participate in the government's cabinet.

[Begin Fernandez recording] There is no plan for COPEI to join the government. The party believes the most important role it can play is to contribute to the consolidation of the country's institutions by firmly and dependably fulfilling its responsibilities as a civic and popular opposition group that continuously demands rectifications by the government. [end recording]

The Movement Toward Socialism [MAS] national directorate also decided against accepting President Carlos Andres Perez' invitation to have MAS leader Pompeyo Marquez join the president's cabinet.

[Begin Marquez recording] We have decided not to accept that proposal. We do realize, however, that the intention is to broaden the government's foundation. By doing this, the president is demonstrating he is broad-minded. [end recording]

#### Perez' Speech Cancellation Fuels 'Uncertainty'

PA2502155292 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0150 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Caracas, 24 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The cancellation of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez' message to the nation and the refusal by the main opposition parties to join a new cabinet fueled local uncertainty on 24 February.

The Social Christian Party [COPEI] and Movement Toward Socialism [MAS], the country's second and third political groups, refused to join a possible coalition government in an attempt to overcome a crisis generated by a foiled military coup attempt on 4 February.

Eduardo Fernandez, secretary general of the Social Christian Party, said: "COPEI has no plans to join the government, because its main role is to reflect popular opposition and to demand that the government make rectifications."

His statement seemed to refute unofficial reports that COPEI Deputy Humberto Calderon Berti would replace Celestino Armas as energy and mines minister.

MAS rejected through Senator Pompeyo Marquez—mentioned to head the Ministry for State Reform—the proposal to join a new Perez cabinet.

Freddy Munoz, MAS secretary general, pointed out that his party cannot "blindly" join the government, because Perez has not clearly explained how he will tidy up public life and the institutions.

"MAS must know which minister will leave the cabinet, which ones will replace them, and the exact composition of the cabinet before it can determine if this meets the country's needs," Munoz said, according to VENPRESS.

Luis Emilio Rondon, spokesman and deputy secretary general of the ruling Democratic Action [AD], said that Perez continues to hold talks with local personalities "to invite them to join the government team patriotically."

The Information Ministry had announced that President Perez would deliver a speech to the nation at 1200, 24 February, but he had not done so eight hours later.

An official said that a prolonged meeting with AD leaders delayed the message. Rondon added that the agenda was not completely exhausted, and that is why the meeting will be resumed in the next few hours.

It is expected that a successful conclusion of the ruling party's meeting will result in the appointment of a new cabinet.

Among the issues discussed during the meeting was a report presented by the government on the foiled rebellion three weeks ago. AD described the report as "very satisfactory," Rondon revealed without giving further details.

**President Perez Swears in New Cabinet Members**

PA2602013692 Caracas Venezolana de Television  
Network in Spanish 2248 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Swearing-in ceremony for new cabinet members in Caracas on 25 February; monitored in progress—live or recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified speaker]...Article 190 of the Constitution, decrees:

1. I accept the resignation submitted to me by the ministers of interior affairs, justice, energy and mines, and secretariat of the Presidency.

2. I appoint Carmelo Lauria Lecer interior affairs minister; Arminda Quintana, justice minister; Rafael Guevara, acting energy and mines minister; and Celestino Armas, minister of the secretariat of the Presidency. Signed in Caracas, 25 February 1992, years 181 of the independence and 133 of the federation by Carlos Andres Perez, president of the Republic.

[Unidentified speaker] Swearing-in ceremony

[Carlos Andres Perez] Citizen Carmelo Lauria Lecer, minister of interior affairs; citizen Arminda Quintana Matos, justice minister; citizen Rafael A. Guevara, acting energy and mines minister; and Celestino Armas, minister of the secretariat of the Presidency: Do you swear you will comply with the Constitution, laws of the Republic, and other duties for which you have been appointed? If you do, you will have fulfilled your duty; otherwise, may God and the fatherland condemn you.

[Unidentified speaker] Signature of the minutes. Mr. President; interior affairs minister; justice minister; acting energy and mines minister; minister of the secretariat of the Presidency. Reading of the decree by the secretary of the Council of Ministers.

[Secretary of the Council of Ministers] Decree No. 2,104. Carlos Andres Perez, president of the Republic. In the exercise of the attributions contained in Articles 190, numeral 2, and Article 194 of the Constitution, in accordance to what has been established in Articles 3 and 41 of the statutes of the central administration, decrees:

1. I accept the resignations submitted to me by state ministers, chief of the Central Office of Coordination and Planning of the Presidency and chief of the Central Information Office.

2. I appoint Ricardo Housmann, chief of the Central Office of Coordination and Planning of the Presidency; Pedro Mogna, chief of the Central Information Office. Signed in Caracas, 25 February 1992, years 181 of the independence and 133 of the federation, by Carlos Andres Perez, president of the Republic.

[Perez] Citizen Ricardo Housmann, minister of state, chief of the Central Office of Coordination and Planning of the Presidency of the Republic; and citizen Pedro Mogna (Dares), minister of state, chief of the Central

Information Office: Do you swear to abide by the constitution, laws of the republic, and other implicit duties of the posts to which you have been appointed.

[Housmann and Mogna] I swear.

[Perez] If so, you will have complied with your duties; if not, may God and the fatherland so demand it from you.

[Unidentified speaker] The document will now be signed by the president of the Republic; the minister of state, chief of the Central Office of Coordination and Planning of the presidency of the Republic; the minister of state, chief of the Central Information Office. The secretary of the Council of Ministers will now read the decree.

[Secretary of the Council of Ministers] Decree No. 2105: Empowered by the provisions of Article 17 of the law organizing the Office of the Attorney General of the republic, Carlos Andres Perez, president of the Republic, hereby decrees:

Single article: Citizen Alfredo Ducharme is appointed acting attorney general of the Republic to replace Juan Jose Rachadell, who resigned the post.

Issued in Caracas on 25 February 1992, year 181 of the independence and year 133 of the federation, by Carlos Andres Perez, president of the Republic.

[Unidentified speaker] The officials will now be sworn in.

[Perez] Citizen Alfredo Ducharme, Attorney General of the Republic: Do you swear to abide by the Constitution, laws of the Republic, and other implicit duties of the post to which you have been appointed?

[Ducharme] I swear.

[Perez] If so, you will have complied with your duties; if not, may God and the fatherland so demand it from you.

[Unidentified speaker] The document will now be signed by the acting attorney general of the Republic. The secretary of the Council of Ministers will now read the decree.

[Secretary of the Council of Ministers] Decree No. 2106: Empowered by the provisions of Articles 16 and 34 of the law organizing the Central Bank of Venezuela, Carlos Andres Perez, president of the Republic, hereby decrees:

Single article: Citizen Miguel Rodriguez (Fandeo) is appointed president of the Central Bank of Venezuela, to replace Citizen Pedro Tinoco, who resigned the post, for the remainder of the term of his predecessor.

Issued in Caracas on 25 February 1992, year 181 of the independence and year 133 of the federation, by Carlos Andres Perez, president of the Republic.

[Unidentified speaker] The official will now be sworn in.

[Perez] Citizen (Miguel Rodriguez Fandeo), president of the Central Bank of Venezuela: Do you swear to abide by

the Constitution, laws of the Republic, and other implicit duties of the post to which you have been appointed?

[Rodriguez] I swear.

[Perez] If so, you will have complied with your duties; if not, may God and the fatherland so demand it from you.

[Unidentified speaker] The document will now be signed by the president of the Republic, the president of the Central Bank of Venezuela. The ceremony has concluded.

### New Cabinet Listed

PA2602023192 Paris AFP in Spanish 0120 GMT  
26 Feb 92

[All names, titles as received]

[Text] Caracas, 25 Feb (AFP)—The new Venezuelan cabinet, announced on the evening of 25 February without a prior message by President Carlos Andres Perez amid a national journalist strike, contains six new ministers.

The new cabinet is composed as follows:

|                                               |                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Interior Affairs                              | Carmelo Lauria - new minister                       |
| Foreign Relations                             | Armando Duran (confirmed)                           |
| Finance                                       | Pedro Rosas Bravo (confirmed)                       |
| Defense                                       | General Fernando Ochoa Antich (confirmed)           |
| Energy and Mines                              | Rafael Guevara - new minister                       |
| Secretariat of the Presidency                 | Celestino Armas—new in post, former energy minister |
| Coordination and Planning                     | Ricardo Haussman - new minister                     |
| Development                                   | Imelda Cisneros de Perez (confirmed)                |
| Health and Social Welfare                     | Rafael Oriuela (confirmed)                          |
| Agriculture and Livestock                     | Jonathan Coles (confirmed)                          |
| Labor                                         | Jesus Ruben Rodriguez (confirmed)                   |
| Transportation and Communications             | Fernando Martinez Mottola (confirmed)               |
| Justice                                       | Arminda Quintana - new minister                     |
| Urban Development                             | Diogenes Urbina (confirmed)                         |
| Environmental and Natural Renewable Resources | Enrique Colmenares Finol (confirmed)                |
| Family                                        | Mabelly de Leon Ponte (confirmed)                   |
| Investment Fund                               | Herbert Torres (confirmed)                          |
| Guyana Development                            | Leopoldo Sucre Figarella (confirmed)                |
| Culture                                       | Jose Antonio Abreu (confirmed)                      |
| Science and Technology                        | Dulce Arnao de Uzcategui (confirmed)                |
| Tourism                                       | Victor Gamboa (confirmed)                           |
| Promotion of Women                            | Evangelina Garcia Prince (confirmed)                |
| President, Commission for State Reform        | Carlos Blanco (confirmed)                           |
| President, Commission Against Drugs           | Enrique Rivas Gomez (confirmed)                     |
| Relations with Congress                       | Jesus Ramon Carmona (confirmed)                     |
| Central Office of Information                 | Pedro Mogna - new in post                           |

Also, Miguel Rodriguez, former planning minister, was appointed Central Bank president, and Alfredo Ducharme, former justice minister, was appointed provisional attorney general.

### Perez Declares Journalist Strike 'Illegal'

PA2502184792 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1700 GMT  
25 Feb 92

[Text] Caracas, 25 Feb (DPA)—On 25 February, hundreds of Venezuelan journalists began a nationwide strike—against government restrictions—on freedom of

expression, thus challenging President Carlos Andres Perez, who declared the protest illegal.

The strike called by the National Trade Union of Press Workers [SNTP] and the National Association of Venezuelan Journalists [CNPV] had begun at the most important Venezuelan newspapers and radio stations at 0600 (1100 GMT) and will conclude on 26 February at 0600.

Reporters from Caracas' most important newspapers, including EL NACIONAL, DIARIO DE CARACAS, EL UNIVERSAL, and ECONOMIA HOY, complied with the strike call. Many radio stations suspended their newscast programs.

On 24 February, following a meeting with representatives of newspaper and television associations at Miraflores Presidential Palace, Perez rejected the strike call and declared the strike illegal.

According to Labor Minister Ruben Rodriguez, Venezuela's labor laws are clear and they prohibit "impulsive strikes." He said that there are conciliatory procedures that must be followed before a strike is called.

Andres de Armas, president of the Venezuelan News Group [Bloque Venezolano de Prensa], formed by 45 Venezuelan newspapers, reaffirmed his rejection of the strike and called it "unjustified." He said: "The country is enjoying full and broad freedom of expression rights, so we cannot, at this critical moment in the nation's life, call for and carry out a serious strike such as this."

As of 25 February, VENPRESS—the state's news agency—and most of the television stations have maintained their usual news programs. SNTP President Jesus Perez, who called the strike "successful," has reported that members of the militarized National Guard are quietly guarding some Caracas newspaper and radio station buildings.

The strike was called initially to demand that Perez restore constitutional guarantees, especially freedom of expression, suspended by the government as a result of the foiled military coup on 4 February.

Following the attack, the government placed listening devices at the most important media sources, which have been raided and harassed by the police.

As a result of growing pressure in and out of the country, Perez ordered the withdrawal of the listening devices and voided the decrees against freedom of expression, the right to strike, and free transit rights.

In spite of this, the SNTP and the CNPV ratified their call for a strike to protest government actions against the media and to defend democracy.

#### **Perez Comments Further**

PA2602033092 Caracas Venezolana de Television  
Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] President of the Republic Carlos Andres Perez has described the 25 February journalists' strike as absurd and unheard of. He said this development is part of a set of circumstances facing the country that are not the most favorable for the nation:

[Begin Perez recording] We must place the journalists' strike within that context. There is absolutely no reason for the country to...[pauses] for men who are as important and useful to the country, as the journalists of the various media are, to leave the country without newspapers and other forms of information for one day. They are failing to comply with the requisites of the Labor Law and are also leaving paperboys and newsstands without earnings for one day.

I resent this attitude, and perhaps that is why I will not deliver the speech I was going to make today but will do so on 26 February. Many journalists and workers have shown that the fatherland's interests are above union interests or orders and are trying to avoid giving Venezuelans another reason to worry. I hope the situation will be fully resolved so I can deliver this message to the media and announce the ministerial changes that had been planned days ago. I will announce them in this message. [end recording]

The president made these statements at the inaugural ceremony of the Guatire-Quempis stretch of the Romulo Betancourt Eastern Highway.

#### **Rosas Announces Foreign Exchange Reserves**

PA2502190892 Caracas Venezolana de Television  
Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] The finance minister will promote an analysis of the rules of the National Securities Commission and of the role this commission plays, in order to determine if it is suitable for Venezuela's market expansion program.

At the annual (CEVICE) [not further identified] meeting, Minister Pedro Rosas Bravo explained that the Venezuelan economy currently has more than \$10 billion in foreign exchange reserves. He said a significant portion of Venezuela's debt was restructured in 1990, and it will be possible to refinance debts with groups other than the banking sector in 1992 and 1993.

[Begin Rosas recording] In 1992 and 1993, we are going to refinance each year between \$500 million and \$600 million in payments scheduled to be made in those years. We are going to discharge similar amounts in order to maintain the policy of keeping payment of the debt, speaking in net terms, down to zero. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Rosas also said the privatization program will be intensified in 1992, because important steps already have been adopted in that direction. He said firm steps are necessary to strengthen the area of public finances.